



Funk vs. Abdullah **WAS THIS THE BLOODIEST**
MATCH IN HISTORY?

February 1979
47951 K \$1.00

THE **Wrestler**

Ernie Ladd's Terrible Vow:
**"I'LL MAKE
DUSTY RHODES MY SLAVE!"**



RIC FLAIR:
**"I WON THE
NWA TITLE...
AND TURNED
IT DOWN!"**





I'll guide you into your own

● While keeping your
you like to gross \$14 or

a true story

own business was so much easier than I had always thought . . . why the day to day guidance of a successful worldwide organization could assure my own success.

I read the booklet several times. It just seemed too good to be true. I talked it over with my wife. We decided that **now** was the time to make the forward step . . . there was no reason to keep postponing an income increase.

So, I applied for a Duraclean dealership and I was accepted. I stayed with my job . . . ran a few ads . . . sent some mailings . . . contacted a few stores and told my friends about the superior services I was now equipped to give them. Evenings and Saturdays, I rendered the service. As the business grew, I added servicemen.

I found that I didn't have to develop a single idea myself. Every step had been prepared for me and pre-tested. Hundreds of other men had already proven my methods successful.

It didn't take long to see that I was making three to four times (yes, 3 to 4 times) as much per hour in my own business as in my printing job. So, after only seven months with a good following of customers, I quit my job to go full time on my own. In the meantime, I had enjoyed all this extra income on top of my salary.

Each day, we realized what a **serious** mistake not mailing that coupon would have been . . . and how that little act that seemed so trivial at the time actually changed our lives.

The steadily growing income brought us many things we could not afford before. My efforts were so much more productive. I scheduled my time to my own liking. When we wanted a day or two off, we took it. I worked hard but, if I wanted to be home early or quit at noon, I did.

I became so enthusiastic about this business and so appreciative of what it had brought my family that, whenever a man opened a dealership near me, I helped him get a quick start.

The company learned about this and had each new dealer in my section of Michigan spend a day with me. One day the president of Duraclean Company asked me how I would like to move to Headquarters and spend my entire time helping dealers to increase their sales and profits.

That was good news to my ears. Since then I have worked with hundreds of our dealers in their own towns and at regional meetings, con-

SOME YEARS AGO I was a printer in a small Michigan town.

I drew a pretty fair pay check but it wouldn't stretch far enough to provide the kind of living I wanted for my wife and five children.

Then one day I was reading a magazine just as you now are and I saw an ad. It intrigued me. It offered me the steadily growing income I had always hoped for. It said I would have greater security and personal independence . . . and that's what I had been wanting.

I was a little skeptical, but I said to myself, "for a postage stamp I can find out." So I mailed the coupon. In a few days, I got a letter with a booklet that gave the whole story. It opened my eyes. I could see why owning my

step by step thriving business

present job, would \$21 profit per hour?

by Bob Ferrel

ventions and dealer group meetings.

Incidentally I sold my dealership at a good profit. If for any reason a dealer wants to sell, we maintain a service to locate buyers and help him sell.

Our job here at headquarters is to show each individual Duraclean dealer how to use his own abilities to bring him greatest success.

It's Easier than You Think To Build Your Own Business

If you've wanted to BE YOUR OWN BOSS... to become financially independent and have a fast growing income, now YOU CAN. And you own a Nationally Advertised business.

You can stay at your present job while your customer list grows... then switch to full time, lining up jobs for your servicemen to do. One job a day brings a good starting income.

If you hire two servicemen (full or part time) while you keep your job, the national price guide provides you a gross profit of \$14 an hour on their work and this is much easier to do than you think. **We show you how...** step by step. That's \$490 for a 35 hour week.

Your gross profit on three servicemen is \$21 per hour. An efficient Duraclean dealer can gross \$7 per hour on EACH serviceman plus \$12 an hour on any service he himself renders. The 24 page illustrated booklet we'll mail you (with no obligation) explains how most of your gross profit becomes **clear net profit**. Your income is limited only by the number of servicemen you employ.

You can operate from a shop, office, or your home. Equipment is light and portable.

At the start, you may want to render service yourself... or you can start with full or part time servicemen. This business is easy to learn... easy to start... so easy to service that women dealers do it. We prefer you have no experience... not have to "unlearn" old ways.

We are NOW enlarging this worldwide system of individually-owned service businesses. If you are reliable, honest and willing to work to become financially independent, we invite you to mail the coupon.

When you receive our illustrated booklet, you will see the way we show you **step by step** how to quickly get customers... and still more customers from their recommendations.

You have 7 superior services that are rendered "on location" in homes, offices, hotels, theaters, clubs, motels and institutions.

These are not ordinary services. You have the prestige and endorsement of leading furniture makers and carpet mills, of National Magazine editors, of Research and Testing Laboratories.

National magazine advertising explains superior merits of **your** services, builds **your** customer confidence and brings job leads to **you**.

Stores, upholsterers, insurance adjustors, and decorators refer jobs to our dealers. These year 'round services are in constant demand.

Start Small, Grow Big in this Booming Business

Many men have said to us, "I can't afford to give up my job till I know I have a sure thing... a sound business that will provide both security and a better living for my family."

That made sense to us so we worked out such a plan... and those same men are now enjoying a Duraclean dealership in many communities. You don't experiment. You use **tested, proven methods**. You have our **backing and "know how."**

Does this appeal to you? Don't decide now. Mail the coupon so you'll have the facts to decide wisely. There is no obligation. You'll then know whether this is what you want.

You can start small and grow big. A third century ago Duraclean was an idea... but it caught fire and spread to a world wide service.

Our first service, the care of upholstery and carpets not only cleans, it enlivens the fibers... revives dull colors. Pile rises with **new life**. There's no harsh machine scrubbing. No soaking. Mild aerated foam lightly applied lifts out dirt, grease, many unsightly spots like magic. Furnishings are used again in a few hours.

Government figures show service businesses are **growing faster** than industries and stores... \$750 million yearly potential just in rug and furniture cleaning. Your **6 other services** are explained in the free booklet we'll mail you.

Only \$1985 starts you in YOUR OWN business. A day's profit more than pays the monthly payments we finance for you.

It is surprisingly easy to learn this business. You can decide from the information we will send you whether to apply for a dealership. So, with **no obligation whatever**, mail the coupon **TODAY**.

Mail this coupon TODAY **It may put you in business**

Duraclean International
9-961 Duraclean Bldg., Deerfield, Ill. 60015
With no obligation, mail 24 page illustrated booklet telling how and why I can quickly increase my income and family security while still employed, how you'll help finance me. No salesman will call.
Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State & Zip _____
Telephone (area code) _____

Wrestler^{THE}

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NRI can show you how to make money repairing small engines!

There's plenty of opportunity for the man who can service lawn mowers, garden tractors, chain saws, tillers, outboards, mopeds, motorcycles, snowmobiles and the like.

There're 50 million small engines out there, and many are waiting for qualified servicemen to fix them. NRI can give you the training you need to cash in on this opportunity, and you learn at home in your spare time, at your convenience.

Exclusive! Build Engine as You Learn

You learn by doing with NRI "hands-on" training. Only NRI gives you all the parts and training you need to actually build a 3 1/2 HP Clinton 4-cycle engine and learn from the inside out as you progress. And your training includes real *professional* tools, including an inductive tachometer, volt-ohm meter, torque wrench, valve spring and ring compressors, a full set of quality wrenches and more...all to equip you for learning and earning.

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Its 30 "bite-size" lessons concentrate on one subject at a time to let you move at your own pace, give you greater clarity and faster learning.

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America's oldest and largest home-study technical school, NRI has trained over a million students. And this experience means that you get the most in practical, effective training for your dollar. You get lessons developed and tested by professional educators...expert help from instructors assigned to your course...a full set of quality tools



...a complete, working engine that you build yourself...the best training and value for your money.

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Find out for yourself how much NRI training can do for you. Send for the free catalog with all the facts and descriptions of every lesson. No salesman will call. Get started on your future today! If coupon has been removed, write to NRI Schools, 3939 Wisconsin Ave., Washington, D.C. 20016.



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Name _____ (Please Print) _____ Age _____

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City/State/Zip _____

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1157-019

OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

WORLD WIDE WRESTLING FEDERATION

Champion: BOB BACKLUND

- 1—ERNIE LADD
- 2—VICTOR RIVERA
- 3—SUPERSTAR GRAHAM
- 4—DUSTY RHODES
- 5—DINO BRAVO
- 6—PETER MAIVIA
- 7—SPIROS ARION
- 8—CRUSHER BLACKWELL
- 9—LUKE GRAHAM
- 10—LARRY ZBYSZKO

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

Champion: NICK BOCKWINKLE

- 1—GREG GAGNE
- 2—VERNE GAGNE
- 3—BILLY ROBINSON
- 4—JERRY LAWLER
- 5—LARRY HENNIG
- 6—BOB ORTON JR.
- 7—BLACKJACK LANZA
- 8—PAT PATTERSON
- 9—RAY STEVENS
- 10—SUPER DESTROYER II

MOST POPULAR

- 1—DUSTY RHODES
- 2—ANDRE THE GIANT
- 3—RICK STEAMBOAT
- 4—BLACKJACK MULLIGAN
- 5—MR. WRESTLING II
- 6—JACK BRISCO
- 7—DINO BRAVO
- 8—GREG GAGNE
- 9—PAUL JONES
- 10—DAVID VON ERICH



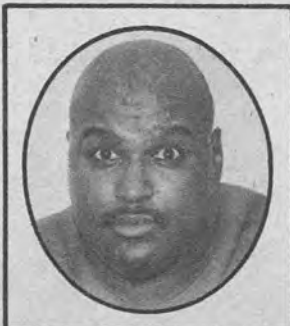
VICTOR RIVERA



BRUISER BRODIE



JERRY LAWLER



ABDULLAH
THE BUTCHER

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

Champion: HARLEY RACE

- 1—ANDRE THE GIANT
- 2—DUSTY RHODES
- 3—RIC FLAIR
- 4—BRUISER
- 5—WAHOO McDANIEL
- 6—RICK STEAMBOAT
- 7—TONY ATLAS
- 8—BRUISER BRODIE
- 9—KEN PATERA
- 10—GINO HERNANDEZ

TAG TEAMS

- 1—BARON VON RASCHKE & GREG VALENTINE
- 2—THE LUMBERJACKS
- 3—PAT PATTERSON & RAY STEVENS
- 4—KEVIN & DAVID VON ERICH
- 5—PAUL JONES & RICK STEAMBOAT
- 6—GREG GAGNE & JIM BRUNZELL
- 7—MR. SATO & MR. SAITO
- 8—JACK & JERRY BRISCO
- 9—MIKE GRAHAM & STEVE KEIRN
- 10—TOMMY RICH & RICK MARTEL

MOST HATED

- 1—ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER
- 2—BRUISER BRODIE
- 3—RIC FLAIR
- 4—KEN PATERA
- 5—STAN HANSEN
- 6—THE SHEIK
- 7—IVAN KOLOFF
- 8—GREG VALENTINE
- 9—GINO HERNANDEZ
- 10—SUPERSTAR GRAHAM

YOUR QUICK WAY TO EASY MONEY!

VIP
VINYL
INDUSTRIAL
PRODUCTS®

VINYL REPAIR

GIVE "on-the-spot" SAME DAY SERVICE
GET "on-the-spot" SAME DAY PAY!!!

You can be in business IN A FEW DAYS!

Sensational! That's the **MONEYMAKING POWER** of VIP Professional Vinyl Repair . . . the business of your own that can be part or full time for **QUICK AND GROWING PROFITS!** You need no study — no training — just a few hours' practice and you're ready to do repairs for pay, — **BIG PAY!** You can be in business practically overnight.

Start for less than you make in 1 hour on first job!

With just a small down payment, you get the complete VIP going-into-business kit . . . all equipment, materials, complete step-by-step instructions, business-building helps . . . everything you need!

\$513⁰⁰
in first 10 days!

"The first 10 days I made \$513. Now getting business from 15 car dealers, 6 furniture stores, 4 restaurants and bars, and clothing stores."
H. Whaley, Wash.

"Wherever I see vinyl, I can do business"



"I've made as much as \$60 in 3 hours."
C. Herrera, Jr., Ariz.

9 HOLIDAY INNS FOR HUSBAND/WIFE TEAM

"These Inns have put us on a monthly allotment. We are busy every day. Wonderful to be one's own boss. We are putting on one repairman to handle business other than Holiday Inns. With our setup, we have weekly checks coming from just the Inns."
Mr. & Mrs. Bechtel, Ohio

STEADY WORK FOR 20 CAR DEALERS



"20 car dealers give me all their repair work. I call on two or three every day, take care of what's needed. No matter what the repair is, it's easy to do with VIP."
R. Lanning, Ky.



\$440 IN 9 HOURS!

"I repaired 55 chairs at the NCO Club at \$8 each — \$440 for 9 hours' work. Materials and transportation cost only \$35!"
D. Gagnon, S.C.

HERE'S THE VIP VINYL REPAIR KIT
that puts you
in your own
HIGH-PROFIT BUSINESS

They all started by mailing a coupon like this. YOU CAN TOO!

ALL FACTS FREE BY MAIL — NO SALESMAN WILL CALL. MAIL COUPON NOW

MAKE \$20 TO \$30 FOR AN HOUR'S JOB LIKE THIS



BEFORE



AFTER

UNLIMITED CUSTOMERS FOR YOUR SERVICE

Auto dealers, car shops, restaurants, motels, bars, clubs, hospitals, bus companies . . . these are just a few of the places that need vinyl repairs, repeatedly. The business is there, waiting for you. And a repair job that takes 1/2 an hour to an hour can mean a quick \$15 to \$30 for you . . . most of it **PURE PROFIT!**

MEN, WOMEN, HUSBAND/WIFE TEAMS FIND VIP QUICK, CLEAN, EASY, PROFITABLE!

Both women and men enjoy this easy, profitable way to make good money fast and steady. The VIP exclusive process is so easy, the directions so simple, that anyone who can read plain English can do it. And what a money-maker! A sure way to have an independent income, or build to a business as big as you want to make it. There's no end to the demand!

GET ALL INFORMATION FREE BY MAIL. NO SALESMAN WILL EVER CALL.

Just mail the coupon. We'll rush all facts to you **FREE BY MAIL.** No obligation. No salesman will call. It's hot! Do it now!



VINYL INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS
2021 Montrose Ave., Dept. 621
Chicago, Ill. 60618

Vinyl Industrial Products, Dept. 621
2021 Montrose, Chicago, Ill. 60618

PLEASE RUSH BY MAIL FREE FACTS about VIP Vinyl Repair and how I can start making money within a few days! No salesman is to call. I am under no obligation.

Print Name _____

Print Address _____

Print City/State/Zip _____

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

By BILL APTER

WAR! That is the only word one can use when describing the rivalry between the Funks—Terry and Dory—and the Von Erich brothers—Kevin and David.

"These damn German punks think they're hot stuff!" Terry exclaimed shortly before the Funk Brothers' most recent pier-six clash



Advisor Fritz Von Erich gives last minute instructions to son Kevin as Fritz' other son, David, listens in. Kevin and David are at war against the Funk clan.

against the Von Erich boys. "We intend to run those Krauts out of Texas!" adds Dory Jr. "They don't belong in this great state!"

David and Kevin, much more level-headed than the Funk clan, are strictly interested in showing Terry and Dory that they are better wrestlers. "We don't go in for bad-mouthing people," David spoke calmly. "No," added Kevin, "we do our talking in the ring. The Funks know we are better than they are and we have proved it. So why don't they just stop bragging and give credit where credit is due!" Veteran Texas fans admit that this is one of the hottest feuds ever to hit the Lone Star State.

You will notice that in our "Official Wrestling Ratings" this month, Andre the Giant is the number one contender for the National Wrestling Alliance heavyweight championship. As required, Andre, as must any wrestler who wants to be considered a challenger to Harley Race's throne, has completed 25 successful matches in the NWA. He is now in line for a title shot and we will have full in-depth coverage in an upcoming issue of **THE WRESTLER** or **INSIDE WRESTLING**. Don't miss this one!

Florida's T.G. Nathan is sure you won't believe this, but here goes: Killer Karl Kox and Steve

Keirn are teaming up! The strange union came about when Keirn was wrestling Korean giant Pak Song. With Keirn tied up in the ropes and helpless, Kox ran into the ring (with fans thinking he would help Song). Instead he began whipping the Korean until he was caught by one of Pak's karate chops and knocked unconscious. The referee quickly ordered Pak back to the dressing room while doctors rushed to the ring to check Kox's condition. An ambulance was called and Kox rushed to the hospital.

The next day, Steve Keirn came to thank Kox and find out why he helped him. "Look kid," Kox said, "I may not like you, but I am an ex-Marine. When I saw that Korean doin' a job on one of our American boys, I cracked up. Understand?" It was in this hospital room that a handshake took place and a partnership was formed. How long it will last is anyone's guess. You can never tell what a psycho like Kox will do next.

Ric Flair has "hired" big John Studd to "go out and destroy Blackjack Mulligan once and for all," as Flair put it. Seems he
(Continued on page 46)

Television Psychic Bob Ferguson shows you

MAGIC WORDS TO COMMAND MIRACLES OF WEALTH, LOVE, AND HEALTH—IN MINUTES!

Here is staggering proof, based on actual reported miracles, that what has worked for thousands will absolutely work for you!

Yes, how would you like to say some magic words, and *be showered with hundreds of dollars in as little as 45 minutes!* Or use amazing healing words, and get rid of crippling ailments instantly! Do you realize that it is possible to instantly and secretly command others to do your bidding . . . punish evil doers . . . see behind closed doors . . . be anything and have anything your heart desires . . . with magic words so simple yet so powerful, they can only be described as miraculous!

Yes, soon miracles will be happening to you every day, with the amazing secret of **PSYCHIC TELEMETRY!** My name is Robert A. Ferguson. You may have seen me on TV. I have shown hundreds how to use this amazingly simple power to command instant miracles to happen in minutes!

Impossible? I have staggering proof that it's not only possible but *absolutely true* and that this **MIRACLE POWER WILL ABSOLUTELY WORK FOR YOU**—to change your life from poverty to riches, from poor health to radiant new health, to bring whatever you desire almost instantly! I'm not exaggerating when I say the sky's the limit!

POSITIVE PROOF THAT WHAT I SAY IS TRUE!

Right now I'm going to *prove* to you how *easily* **PSYCHIC TELEMETRY** works for you. Remember, I cannot profit by exaggeration. What I tell you has *got* to be true, and it costs you nothing to find out for yourself.

● **HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS IN 45 MINUTES!** I have a report here from Mary D. who needed \$400 quickly. She had no idea where she could get the needed money. Her sister gave her a Psychic Telemetry Enchantment to say. In only 45 minutes, she received \$400 from an unexpected source!

That's chickenfeed compared to the staggering results many others have achieved with these magic words! Dave E. had been unable to find a job, and had only 3 days left before having to pay a big bill. He didn't have a cent. In one session, I showed him how to use the Psychic Telemetry Prosperity Ritual. The next morning, he was all smiles, as he reported a sudden windfall of \$2,000—more than enough to pay the bill. A miracle? Of course! *Yet just a very average example of the power of these magic words!*

Dave used the Prosperity Ritual at about 9:00 P.M. At 8:00 A.M. the following morning, he got the money! As simple as that! I HAVE HUNDREDS OF CASES ON FILE, PROVING HOW EASILY MIRACLES HAPPEN with these magic words! Before I give you the next case, let me say this: **DO YOU NEED MONEY?** Say the powerful words on page 37! With this secret, money is always available to you!

You can get any amount of money at any time you need it! I am *telling* you the sky's the limit on how much money you can ask for and receive quickly with this power! Proof?

HOW AGNES C. WON OVER \$500,000 WITH THE WORDS FOR WINNING CONTESTS!

Agnes C. was told about enchantments and spells, but insisted that she possessed no psychic powers and never had any psychic experiences. Here's what happened: she kept dreaming of a man in a flowing robe with dollar signs all over it, holding up 7 fingers, saying: "A dollar a day keeps poverty away!" She purchased a one-dollar lottery ticket.

"I simply could not believe it when my number was drawn for the grand prize (7 days later). I still can't believe it," she says. "I won over a half-million dollars." Agnes and her family are now enjoying their new lakefront home with its private boathouse and dock. They have two expensive autos and all the other luxuries money can buy.

The point is: YOU CAN USE THE SAME SECRET! You'll find the very words she used on page 37 of my book, and it won't cost you a single cent to find out what they are, and how they'll work for you.

MAGIC WORDS FOR MIRACLE HEALING!

Before I tell you how YOU may achieve a **MIRACLE HEALING**, let me tell you how a man was healed of arthritis in **FIFTEEN MINUTES!** A friend of mine, Louie A., tried the power Ritual for Magnetic Healing on page 146 on his next-door neighbor, Ken, who was confined to a wheelchair with arthritis. In a matter of minutes, the crippled man was **WALKING!** "I haven't been able to walk for months," he said, "and you got me out of my wheelchair."

Since that day, Louie has been able to heal "incurable" diseases! **AND YOU CAN DO THE VERY SAME THING!** This is just an average case. With this power, you can command healings like this on almost a daily basis. I'm telling you this power is **FANTASTIC!**

Look what you can do, with exact words I give you on page

139-140—

- Cure ulcers, nervous headache, and insomnia! Calm the nerves!
- Cure diseases of the liver and spleen—stop bleeding!
- Strengthen the eyes, control epilepsy and disorders of the stomach!

- Cure heart disease, increase circulation, and heal gout!
- Heal burns, conditions of the nose, throat and sinus, treat hay fever and asthma!

. . . and much more! With these words, you ask great rays of healing power to enfold you, pulsating within every nerve and cell of your body, cleansing, soothing and healing! Whatever you are trying to heal, you know the job will be done.

MIRACLE CURES REPORTED!

Do you realize that it is possible to get rid of crippling ailments almost instantly with healing words? You can command that all sickness and disease be banished from your body! Here is a force so powerful that it almost defies description! It can heal a withered limb or return sight to the blind . . . raise the crippled from their beds! It has brought miracle cures to the suffering and the lame!

● **KIDNEYS MIRACULOUSLY HEALED!** Evelina's only hope was to find a suitable kidney donor. She was so weak, it took two people to almost carry her to the hospital for her frequent treatments. There seemed to be little hope for her. With this method, she says—

"My whole body began to tingle—it felt like little electric shocks were playing games at the small of my back . . . suddenly . . . I knew I was healed! I leapt from my bed and ran into the living room screaming, 'I'M HEALED, I'M HEALED!' Our house was filled with tears of joy that night."

Today she is so healthy, she can hike and even climb mountains! It happens all the time with **PSYCHIC TELEMETRY!**

● **HOW HARVEY C.'S ASTHMA WAS CURED!** Harvey C. suffered asthma all his life. He could never run more than a few steps, without gasping for breath. Doctors were unable to cure it. I was so positive Harvey's asthma could be cured, I merely had him say the words on page 139-140. He never had another asthma attack! Now he can run and even play tennis!

● **HAROLD SAW HIS LUNG SPOT VANISH!** Harold F. was shocked, when told he had a spot on his lung, and needed an immediate operation. His wife quickly used the amazing healing words on page 145. The day before the operation, when x-rays were taken, the doctor was baffled. "I don't know how to explain this," he said. "Your lungs are perfectly clear."

MAGIC FORCES THAT WORK MIRACLES

Once you call on them, powerful forces stand ready to fulfill your every command. You can be confident that they will work a miracle.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

ROBERT A. FERGUSON, author, lecturer, and Psychic Telemetry teacher, has been involved in the occult field for over thirty years. He has been a frequent guest on many television talk shows, and has had articles published in magazines such as *National Enquirer*, *Occult*, *Psychic World*, and others. Mr. Ferguson has been called, "The leading authority in this field," by a number of prestigious Societies in England. He has also acted as psychic consultant to top American corporations and entertainment personalities.

others, you can secretly and invisibly watch their every move and hear their every word!

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● **MAGIC WORDS TO SEE INTO THE FUTURE!** There is no need to blindly stumble into the future. When you say the magic words on page 62, your psychic eyes will open, and you will see actual visions of future events. Vision upon vision will flash brilliantly into your mind. If there is danger ahead, Cosmic Mind will flash you the warning so a possible catastrophe can be avoided. If there is tremendous goodness in the future, all will be revealed to you!

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YOU ASKED US

Here's the monthly feature which YOU get to write! It's your chance to have a top wrestler answer YOUR question! Only the best questions will be answered—so put on your thinking caps and come up with some good ones! Address your questions—and who you would like to have answer them—to: YOU ASKED US, c/o THE WRESTLER, P.O. Box 58, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571. Questions will be answered only in this column and at our discretion!

Q: I read in "You Asked Us" that Andre the Giant has never lost a match. If this is true, why isn't he rated as a top contender by the AWA, WWF, or NWA?—Gregory Buchanan, Portland, Ore.

A: According to the bylaws of all three associations, to be rated as a contender, a wrestler must take 25 matches in a row

in one area. Andre, who loves to travel, has yet to meet this requirement. If he should take those 25 bouts in any of the three territories, he would undoubtedly be ranked as the number one contender.

Q: Who was the very first WWF champion?—Craig Ontiveros, Redwood City, Calif.

A: Buddy Rogers became the first WWF champion when he won an elimination tournament held in 1963. Rogers soon lost his belt to Bruno Sammartino.

Q: Does Dusty Rhodes prefer to pin his opponent or make his opponent submit?—Tony Carnevale, Pittsfield, Mass.

A: "It depends on the opponent, Tony," Dusty said. "If he's a dude I really hate, well then I'd like to make him say 'Uncle.' But if it's just a

tune-up type of bout, I really see no need to have my opponent suffer all that much. A quick pin is fine in that case."

Q: Isn't it true that Harley Race is paying Ernie Ladd to get rid of Dusty Rhodes?—Tracy Fox, Port Salerno, Fla.

A: Not according to Harley Race, Tracy. Here's what he said: "Why should I have to pay anybody to do an easy job like that? The only reason I



Harley Race swears that he has not hired Ernie Ladd to get rid of top title contender Dusty Rhodes.

haven't ended Rhodes' career myself is because I have great sympathy for butter balls."

Q: Where is my favorite wrestler, Pedro Morales? Will he come back to Los Angeles soon?—Ed Meek, Covina, Calif.

A: "Hey, mi amigo, there's nothing I'd like more than to go back to California," Pedro told us. "But I have many commitments here in the great city of Kansas City. But I promise all my muchachos I will be back—someday."

(Continued on page 56)



Andre the Giant headlocks Ric Flair. A reader wondered why Andre is not rated in our Official Ratings.

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CORRESPONDENTS Reports



Manager Lord Al Hays with his wrestler, Super Destroyer II (above). The masked man was recently unmasked by Larry Hennig in Green Bay.

GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN—
Correspondent: Dave Van Spankeren—It all started on television when Larry Hennig got involved with Super Destroyer II. They signed for the main event, each with revenge in mind. Fierce action resulted, and Hennig surprised everyone by pulling the mask off Super Destroyer's face. Many ringside observers said they saw Super Destroyer's face, but his manager, Lord Al Hayes, came in and pulled his coat over his wrestler's head, protecting his identity.

In other action: Rufus Jones and Mighty Igor topped Pat Patterson and Ray Stevens but did not gain the tag team belts . . . Greg Gagne stopped Blackjack Lanza . . . Cecil Dubois drew with Steve Olsonowski.

If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

Send your reports to : Correspondent Editor, Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571.

FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA—Correspondent: Scott Stone—Wahoo McDaniel is extremely proud of his Southern heavyweight championship and it is going to take quite a wrestling effort to take it away from him. Pak Song tried to do just that and nearly succeeded. Song applied several painful clawholds on McDaniel, but the Chief somehow survived. Song, apparently frustrated, fled the ring.

In other bouts: Mike Graham and Steve Keirn halted Killer Karl Kox and Bob Duncum . . . Eric the Red stopped Steve Brody . . . Prince Tonga handled Phil Marcardo . . . Pete Austin was downed by Vic Rossitani.

WINNIPEG, CANADA—Correspondent: Bill Mathes—In what fans consider to be Nick Bockwinkle's toughest title defense, the AWA champ resorted to his usual rulebreaking tactics to walk away with the belt after meeting a stubborn Greg Gagne.

Bockwinkle threw Gagne on the top rope and Gagne immediately suffered a groin injury. Bockwinkle was then disqualified.

In other action: the new tag team champs, Pat Patterson and Ray Stevens whipped Steve Olsonowski and Rufus Jones . . . Super Destroyer II stopped Mighty Igor with help from Lord Al Hayes . . . Dave Kochen was too much for Bob Orton Jr. . . . Paul Ellering drew with Cecil Dubois . . . Blackjack Lanza overcame Frank Hill.



Ric Flair and Blackjack Mulligan once again made war (above) with Flair's U.S. heavyweight title on the line. Ric escaped when Blackjack hit the referee.

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA—Correspondent: Greg Bowles—The U.S. heavyweight title was on the line and Ric Flair escaped still holding the belt. His arch-rival Blackjack Mulligan gave Flair all he could ask for and more. The bloodbath ended when Mulligan hit the referee by accident. Both wrestlers were bloody and battered at the end of the match.

In other matches: Greg Valentine and Baron Von Raschke successfully defended their world tag team title against Paul Jones and Ricky Steamboat . . . Dick Murdoch stopped Cyclone Negro . . . Mr. Wrestling survived against Jacques Goulet, who was disqualified.

(Continued on page 48)

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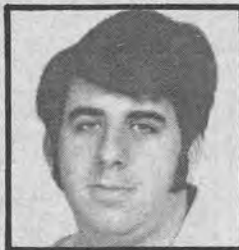
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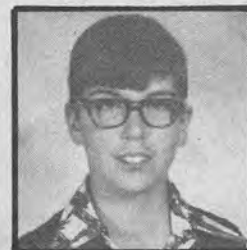
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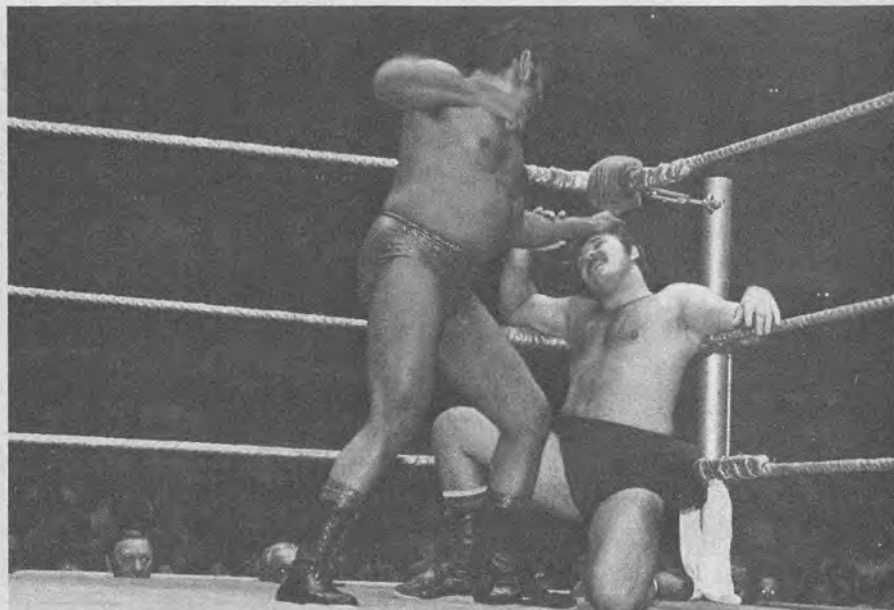
BLASSIE TO BLAME

Victor Rivera has made me sick with his recent turn to rulebreaking. He is a disgrace to the sport I love so much. However in regard to your article in the December 1978 issue ("Victor Rivera: I Laughed At The Fans When They Cheered For Me"), I seriously wonder how much Rivera is to blame. Freddie Blassie has specialized in turning talented wrestlers into blood-hungry mad dogs (Arion, Tanaka, Mr. Fuji), and I think he's done it again. Knowing Blassie, I put the blame totally on him for turning Rivera into an animal. He seems hypnotic and it sickens me. If he gets his slimy hands on enough wrestlers, the sport will die in two years.

CARL SAMSEN
Kew Gardens, N.Y.

ANDRE IS INHUMAN

Nothing terrible is going to happen to Andre the Giant. In your December 1978 issue you ran an article saying that a fan-doctor has spotted a dent in the Giant's armor that could be taken advantage of. Andre confirmed the injury. Well, Andre is inhuman and can conquer any injury or



One fan feels that Victor Rivera (above) pummeling Larry Zbyszko, has been influenced by Fred Blassie, his manager. A.J. Murray of Tallahassee believes that Andre the Giant (left) is invincible.



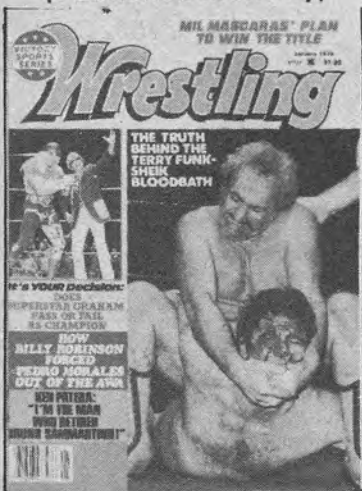
setback. In his distinguished, undefeated career, Andre has always found a way to do the seemingly impossible. No minor injury is going to stop him, whether Lou Albano finds out where it is, or not. Shame on you for scaring the fans!

A.J. MURRAY
Tallahassee, Fla.
(Continued on page 58)

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RIC FLAIR:

"I WON THE NWA TITLE..."

OUT OF THE raging whirlpool of controversy, one calm figure appeared. He kept a disdainful arrogance, sneered at the persons around him, and shrugged away their concern.

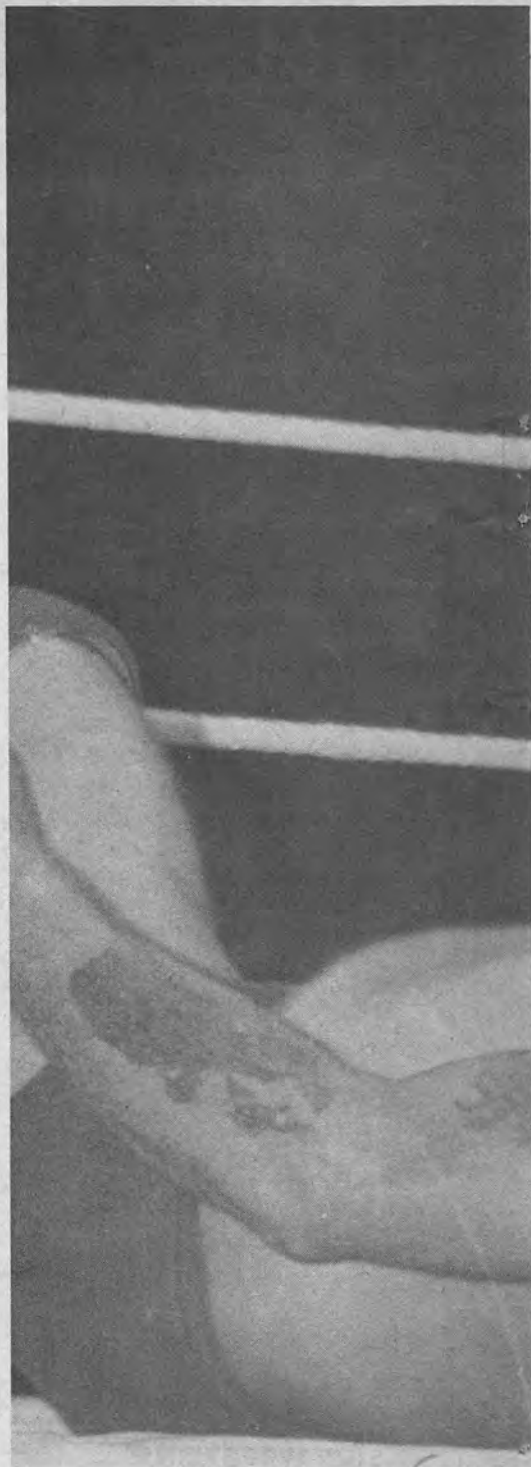
"What's the big deal?" Flair asked the bewildered reporters trying to unravel the results of the NWA title match. "I won the NWA title, so what? I turned it down."

If chaos could describe the arena before that match, panic is the only accurate word to capture the sense of confusion which spread throughout the building after Flair's remark.

"Him? He's saying he won?" snarled Race. The two men stood in opposite corners of the ring, unwilling to leave. An uneasy buzzing rippled through the stands. They were too close



Ric Flair, in an NWA title match against champion Harley Race, had the titleholder in trouble with an armlock (above), a diving lunge to the mat (right), and a punch to the back (far right).



AND TURNED I

To most wrestlers, the NWA championship is one of the greatest prizes in all of professional sports. But Ric Flair claims to have turned his back on the title, as if it didn't matter at all. Can this be true? Read this shocking story and decide for yourself!



PHOTOS BY ROGER DEEM

T DOWN!"

to one another, retaining too much animosity for this scene to end without unpleasanties.

"It's my belt, hey, ain't it my belt?" Race pointed his finger at the referee, who nodded.

Harley grinned in triumph and shook the belt at Flair.

"Looka this, beauty-boy. I won." Would Flair react with typical tantrums?

(Continued on page 50)



He's young, strong, graceful, and sure to be one of the wrestling superstars of the future. Combining the excitement of a rookie with the wisdom of a veteran, this little known grappler is standing on the brink of becoming one of the most famous wrestlers in the world!

SOME YOUNG WRESTLERS have dreams of capturing a major title, perhaps a regional championship, or even a world belt. Others would be content with simple financial rewards. Many want the uplifting fan appreciation.

And then there are wrestlers like young Austin Idol. He is not after a title. What he wants to do is out-cheat, out-snarl, out-cruel his own idol.

Austin Idol wants to out-rulebreaker Superstar Billy Graham.

"Ever since I got into wrestling, Superstar has been my favorite," admitted the handsome blond. "He is what wrestling is all about.

"He's big, strong, tough and bright. And he's talented. He's managed to stay on his feet even though a host of good guys want to knock him off. I want to be better than him. That's where I've set my sights."

For the moment, Idol's admiration of Graham has been from afar.

"No, I've never met him. A couple of times I've tried to get back into the dressing rooms to meet him just before I turned pro, but the guards wouldn't let me through.

"I was disappointed but not crushed. I know how busy a guy like Superstar must be and I was afraid I'd bother him.

"What I'm hoping for is that he'll read this article and hear about me. Then maybe he'll get in touch with me. That'd be sensational."

Idol has easily handled many of his scientific wrestling opponents. However, he is quick to minimize the importance of those



Little known newcomer Austin Idol applies a headlock to veteran Bobo Brazil (above, left). Idol, much like his idol Superstar Billy Graham, will do anything to win, such as using a foreign object against Billy LaFive (above, right). He also demonstrates superb ring maneuvers, such as a head-scissors (below).

INTRODUC AUSTIN ID



accomplishments.

"They were lames. Most of the scientific wrestlers are lames.

That's why you can't get too hopped up about them. How many good scientific wrestlers

Austin Idol, somewhat of a pretty boy (below) is no slouch when it comes to mixing it up in the ring (far left).

PHOTOS BY BRAD McFARLIN

ING OL

are there? Two or three?

"But look at all the top-notch rulebreakers. To be a rulebreaker, you gotta be good and tough. That's a big combination to handle."

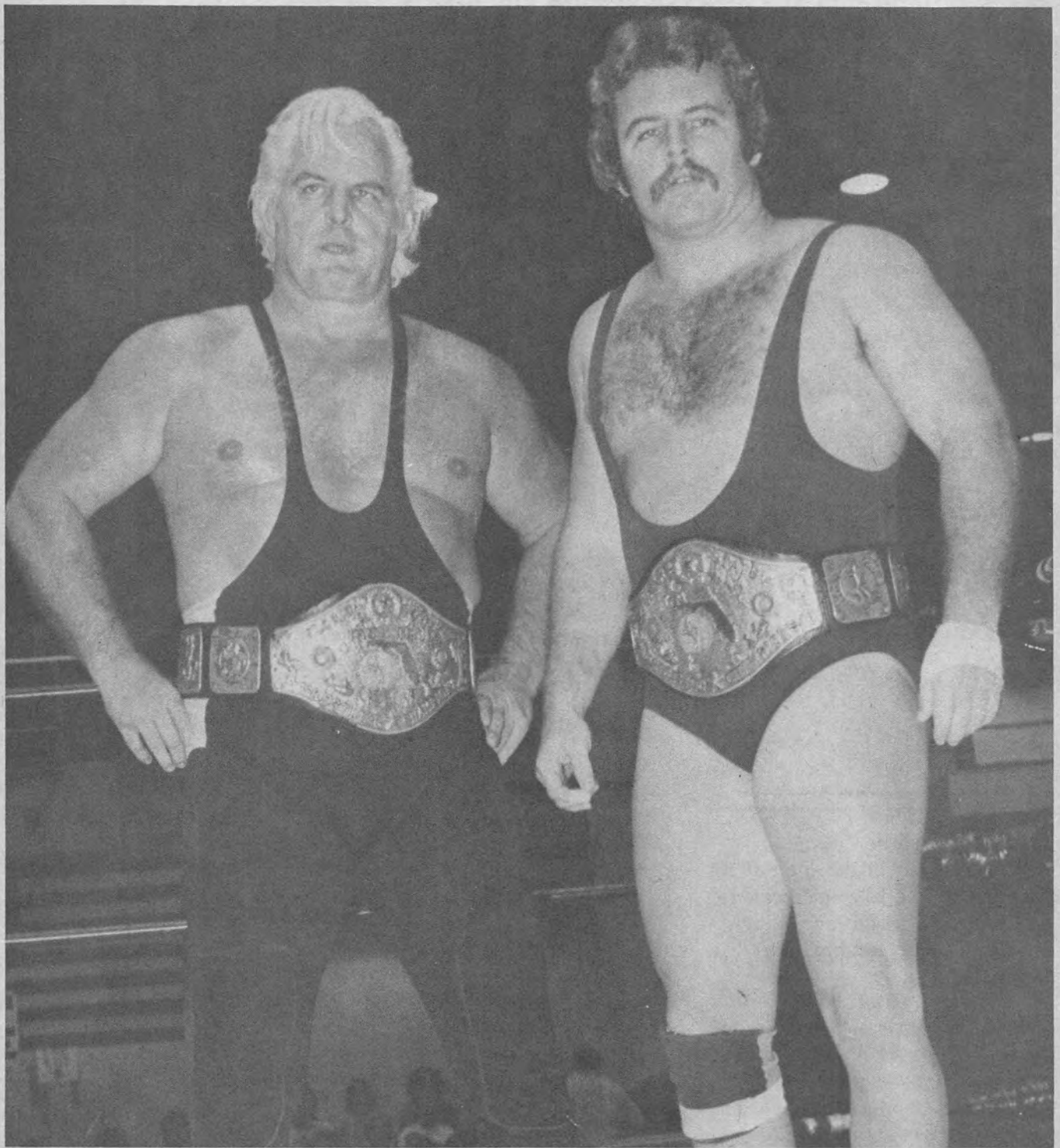
At present, Idol relies on a fiendish maneuver which he calls the Helbow Express.

"I take my elbow, point it toward my opponent's forehead and charge right at him. Usually he goes down in a couple of seconds." Idol smiled proudly. "Ain't no man alive can stop the Helbow Express when I get my fire chugging. It will be regarded as one of the great moves some day."

Hear that, Billy?



"MY FATHER,

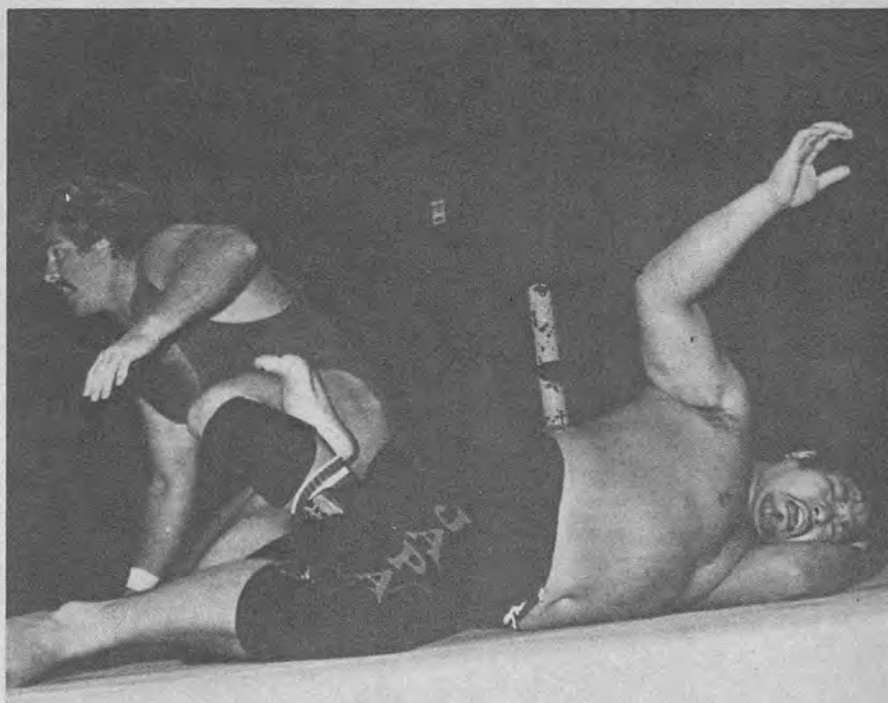


MY PARTNER"

THE GYMNASIUM IS deserted except for two men practicing tag team maneuvers. There is a striking similarity between the pair, as if the same man was observed at two different times in his life. The younger man is swifter, the older man is more assured. One can see what he will become, the other can see what he once was. The past has teamed with the future.

There's a reason for this similarity. The elder grappler is Eddie Graham. His young partner is his son, Mike. Together, they form a unique tag team. Their success is something they've worked very hard to attain. And even though they seem to be splendid, every day means harder and harder work.

"When we first teamed," Eddie remembers, "Mike was still a



Mike Graham pummels away at the unprotected stomach of Toru Tanaka (below) as father and teacher Eddie lends a bit of assistance. The Graham tag team has been successful from the outset, having once won the Florida tag team title.

Wrestling is rarely a father-son business. However, the Grahams, father Eddie and son Mike, have shown that two generations are often better than one!

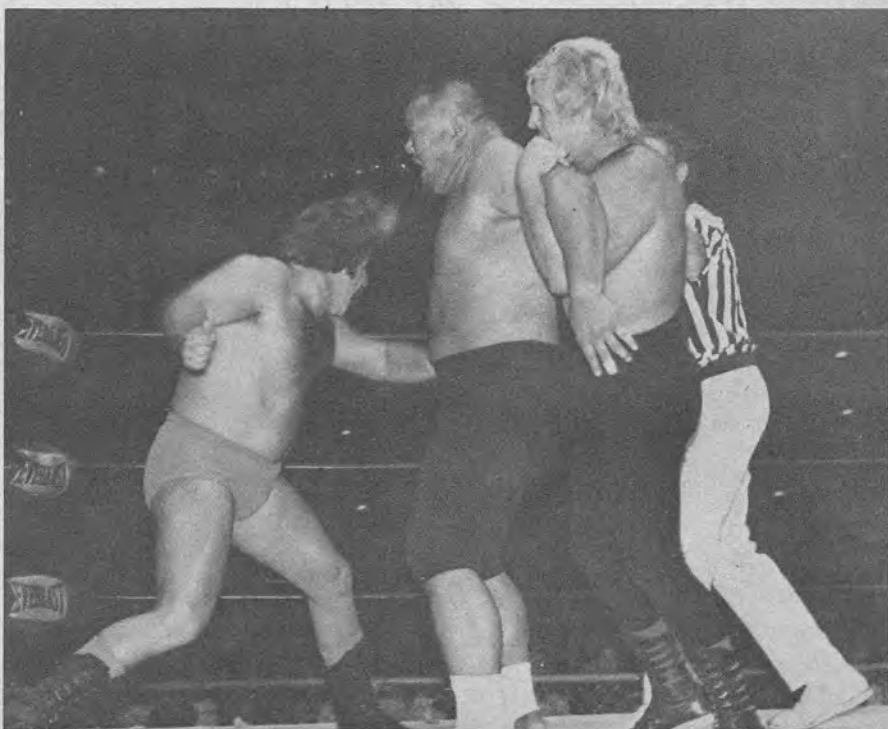
rookie. I felt safer when he was my tag team partner. I could protect him.

"Mike made his choice, though, and we had to respect it. So I did everything to help him. We became tag team partners not only so I could protect him, but to also keep tabs on his progress. All in all, my plan worked out very well. Look at the results."

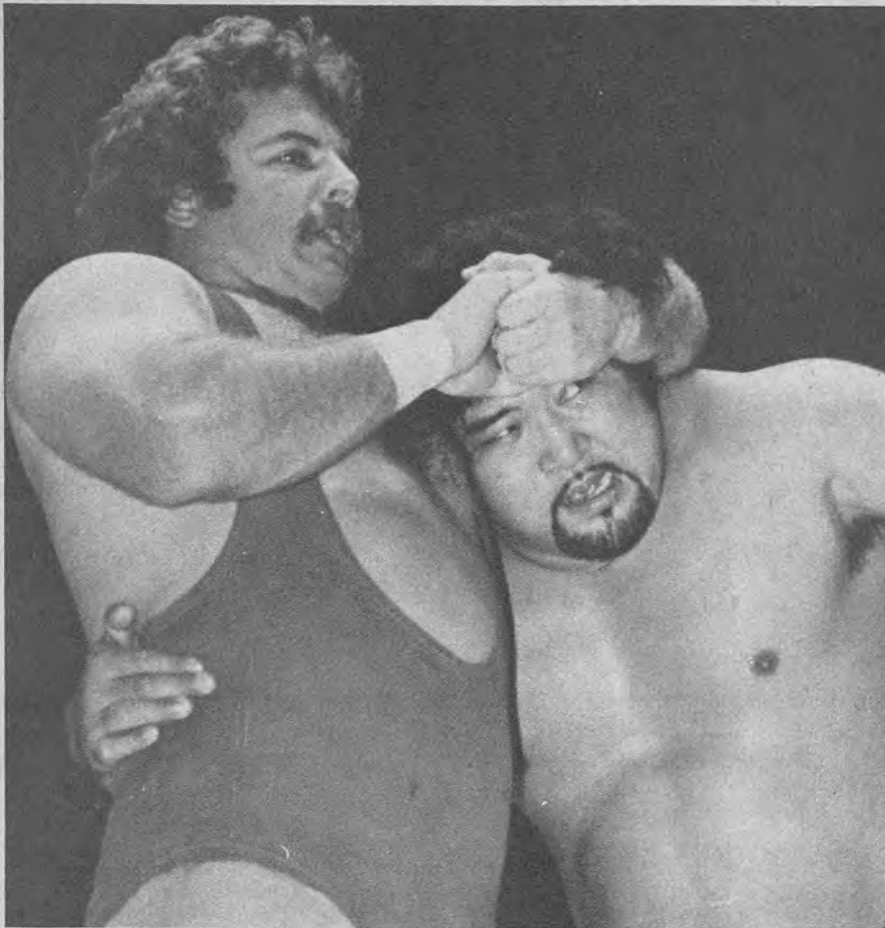
Today, Mike is one of the leading wrestlers in the world. He can claim victories over many top contenders. His father doesn't have to worry about protecting him. This doesn't mean the pair doesn't still team together.

"We're one of the best tag teams around," Eddie says, "but it's not like it used to be. Now, Mike is an equal partner. He's become a smart wrestler. When he talks, I listen."

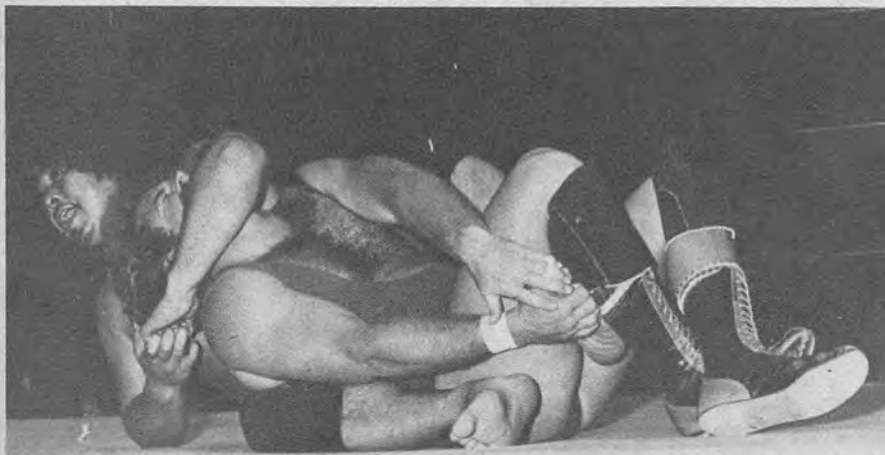
"Nobody has the final word. If we can't decide on something, we discuss it, not always calmly, and



Mike Graham, who learned his wrestling from one of the sport's greatest grapplers, his father Eddie, pulls away from a figure-four leglock that has caused Mr. Sato to scream (above). Graham has mastered many of his father's famous holds.



Applying a devastating headlock to Mr. Sato (above), Mike Graham appears to be in control of his match. However Sato, one of Mike's chief Florida rivals, gains the advantage with a take-down maneuver and a headlock of his own (below).



then put it to the side. Either it's forgotten or one of us will think of an agreeable solution. I just can't make a statement and have it be law. Mike knows as much as I do now. Sometimes, I think he knows more.

"Besides, Mike is too big to spank."

Does working together cause any special problems?

"Many sons go into their fathers' businesses," Eddie points out. "Wrestling is my business. It may be more dangerous than most, but it's still a business. Mike went into business with me.

"If he wasn't any good," Eddie

declares, "I'd have done my best to discourage him. But he's a top professional. He can take the pressure and take the pain. I trust him as a fellow wrestler. As long as there's trust and respect, there can be no problems. Not real problems, anyway."

Mike agrees.

"I work well with my father," he states, "and our record proves it. If we didn't do well, we'd stop. It'd be a decision between two professionals. Nothing else would change. He'd still be my father and I'd be expected for Sunday dinner.

"I've had other partners since I started wrestling and so has he. It didn't bother either of us. I figure there are 20 wrestlers that I could team up with. My father is one of them. He's probably the best for any number of reasons. Most importantly, I enjoy working with him. He's been a top wrestler for the last two decades. You have to respect that.

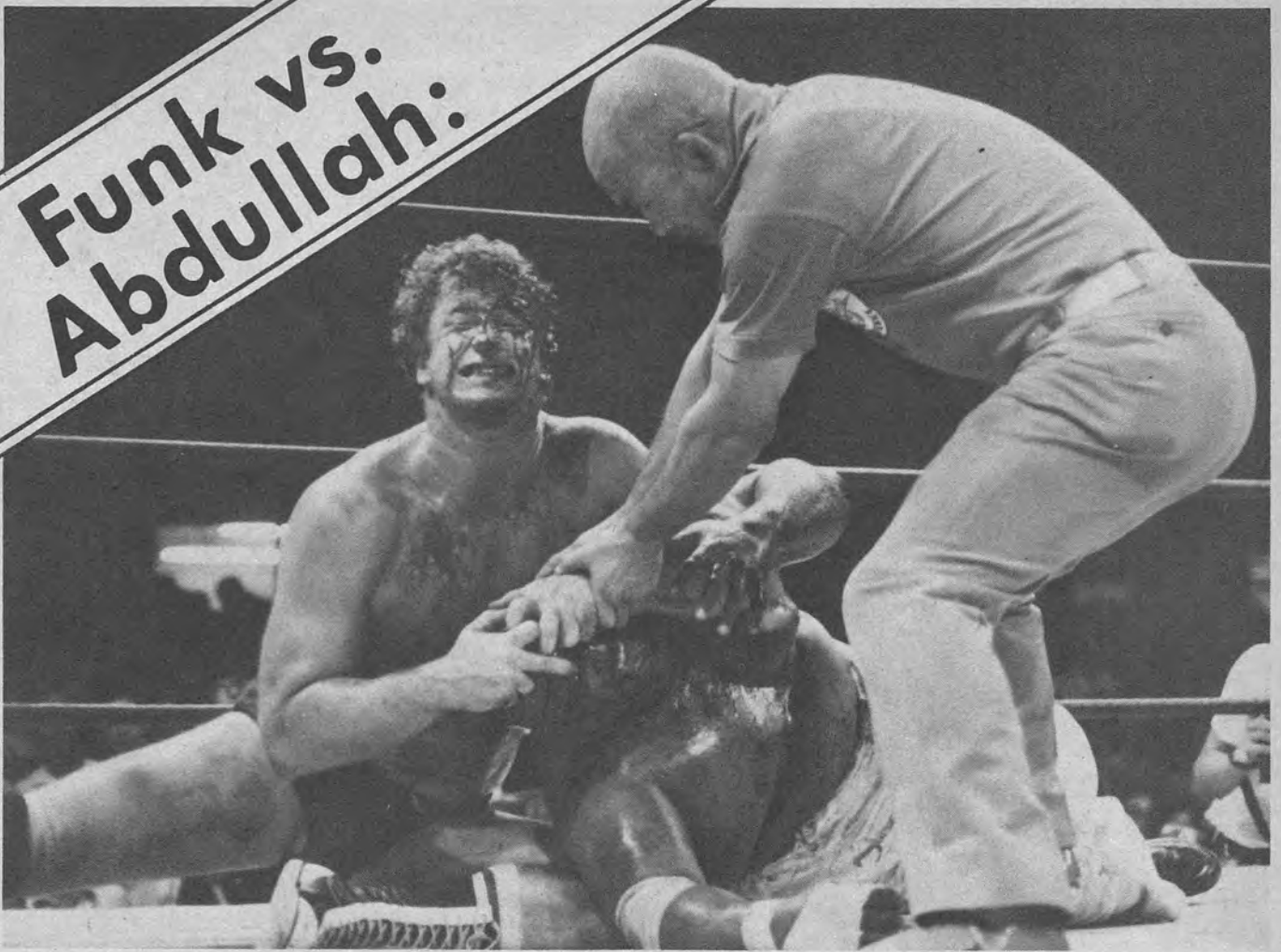
"We're good together. On the same team we have youth and maturity. We're also good at working together. We've been working together ever since I was born!"

Watching the two men work is a study in how a tag team should operate. They practice each move over and over, giving advice and analyzing everything. Nothing is left to chance. Each man listens seriously to what the other has to say. Even their physical movements remind one of a bond formed from respect and mutual admiration.

When the training session is over, a transformation seems to occur. Eddie becomes a father and Mike becomes a son. The younger man asks the older one for advice about any number of things. The father asks about his son's life, reminding him to call his mother.

As Mike leaves, Eddie smiles and tells an interviewer, "I'm a lucky guy." We're sure his son feels the same way. □

**Funk vs.
Abdullah:**



WAS THIS THE BLOODIEST MATCH IN HISTORY?

IT IS TOO simple to casually blame Abdullah the Butcher for this particular outrage. He has been in prior matches without such a result occurring.

And faulting Terry Funk is also too simple. As a veteran, Funk

has been involved in similar circumstances without such terrible results.

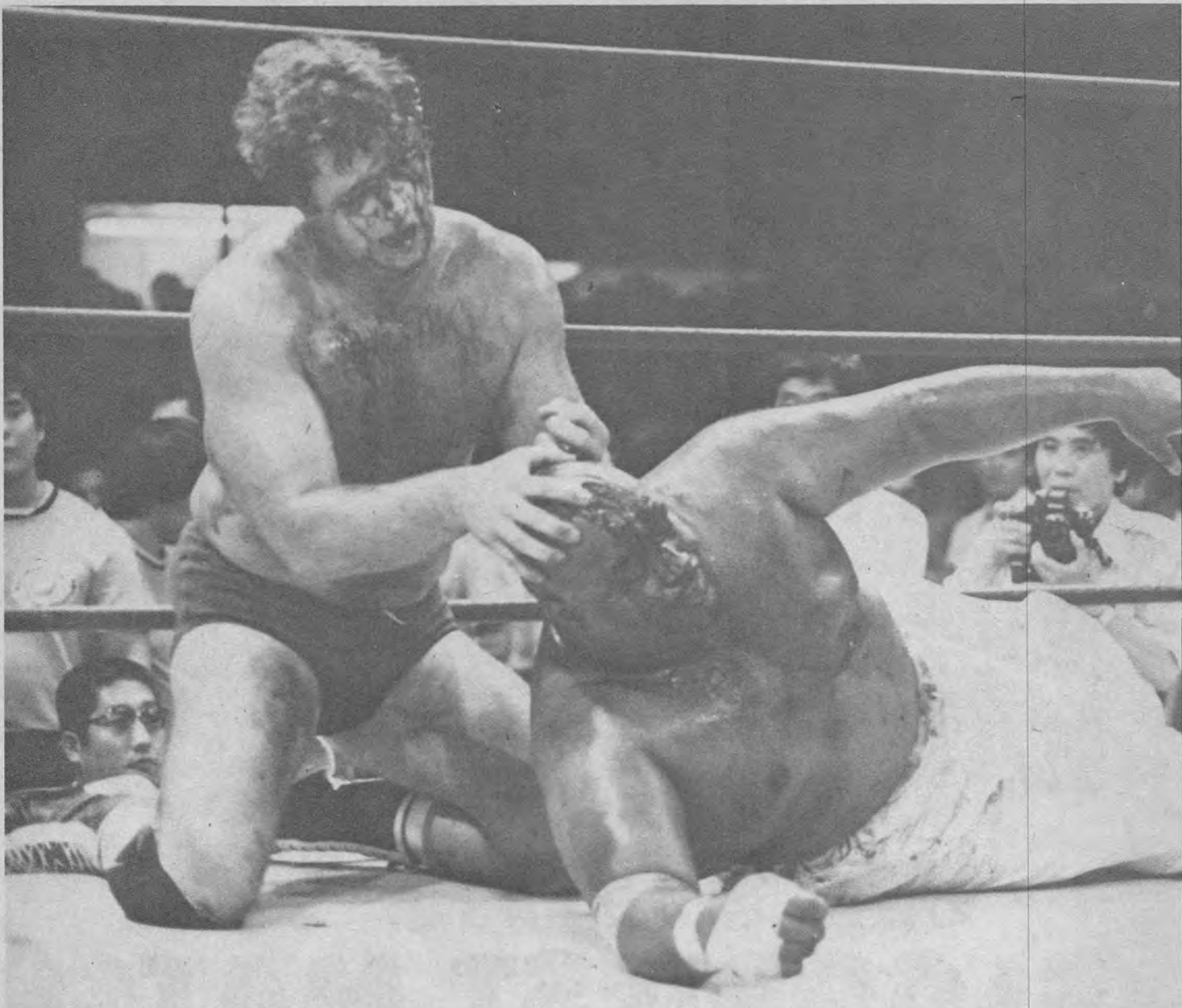
Combine these two men and a vicious bloodbath will result. That is expected. But no one would have anticipated what

their latest match would be like.

This may have been the bloodiest match in wrestling history.

"We admitted five people suffering from nervous shock who attended the match," said a

There have been many gory matches in the history of professional wrestling. Yet this bloodbath between the fiendish invader from the Sudan and Terry Funk may qualify as the bloodiest bout ever



An enraged Terry Funk goes to work on the bloody head of one of wrestling's most vicious grapplers, Abdullah the Butcher (above). Abdullah, always unpredictable, introduced a screwdriver into the match and used it on Funk's face and eyes (below, left).



spokesman for a local hospital. "We have never seen anything like this."

For Funk and Abdullah, this was an evening of shame. No chicanery, no evil was too much for Abdullah the Butcher.

As usual, he introduced foreign objects. But a hacksaw?

"That's what it was, a damn, lousy hacksaw. One of those six inch jobs," complained Funk. "Come on, even for Abdullah, that stunk."

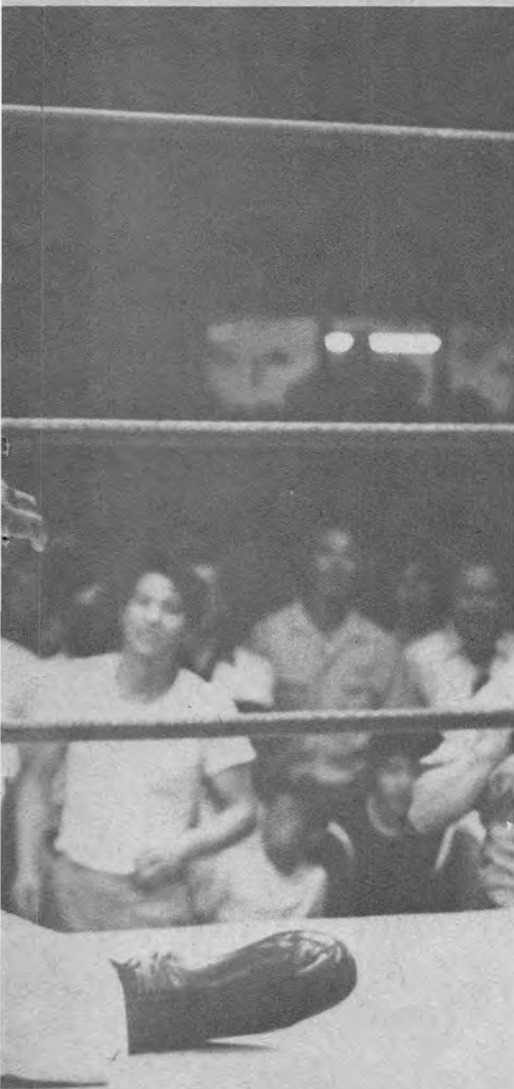
This was early in the match. Then it got worse.

Funk was trying to avoid a bloody brawl. He kept his poise for a little while. A very little while. Then the hacksaw materialized.

A deep gash ran across Funk's forehead. With Abdullah trying to dig a trench back to Terry's earlobe, the referee tried to remove the foreign object. All he did was give Funk the opening he needed.

"That's what I was waiting for," Funk recalled.

With fiendish opportunism, Funk seized the hacksaw and riddled Abdullah's forehead. Both faces were transfigured



A furious Funk staggers the grotesque Butcher with a right hook to the jaw (above). The two wrestlers engaged in what many observers considered to be the bloodiest match in the history of the sport. Funk, already bloodied by the first two foreign objects the Butcher used, strikes back (below).

with blood.

"I could barely see," Funk admitted.

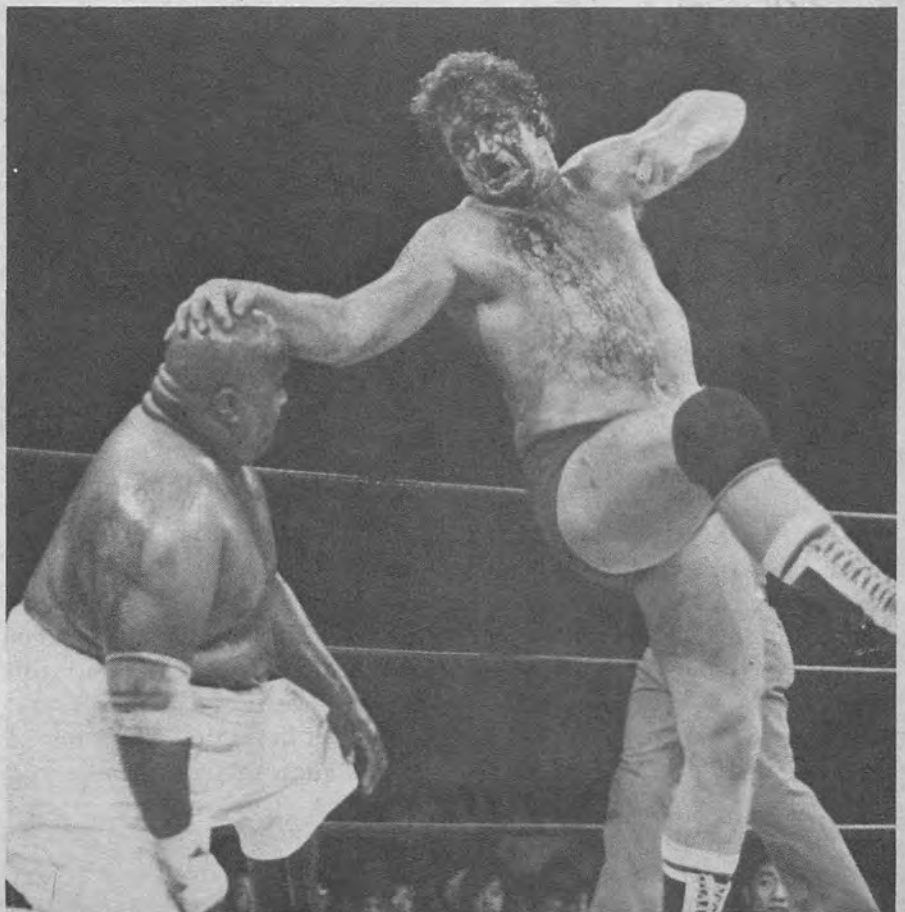
At this stage, it was a gory match. But not the bloodiest. Yet.

Somehow, Abdullah imported another metallic substance. This was more deadly than a hacksaw. More powerful than a howitzer. Able to break through any defenses at a single twist.

A screwdriver. Abdullah had managed to bring a screwdriver into the ring. Funk was furious.

"I had never seen it used. I had heard about it, just rumors, how deadly it was. But since it was so deadly, they had managed to keep

(Continued on page 54)



EDITOR'S NOTE: This article marks the initial contribution of Liz Hunter to our magazine. Liz, 25, attractive and intelligent, has been covering professional wrestling for many years, since she was a teenage fan in her hometown of Chicago, Illinois. Liz has been published in many national magazines and newspapers as well. We welcome her keen observations and look forward to her fine reporting.

The Mongolian Stomper! Ugh, the mere name makes me think of blood, dirt and poor odors. I can't believe that my first article for this fine magazine must concern him. I have loathed Stomper for many years. Anyway, maybe Robert Fuller can perform a miracle and take the Stomper out of his misery in this match. I had hoped that my first article would deal with a match concerning a sweetheart like Dino Bravo or a hunk like Tommy Rich. Instead I get Stomper. Well, at least I don't have to wear my best makeup.

*By Special Correspondent
Liz Hunter*

Fuller vs. Stomper:

BEAUTY AND THE

PHOTOS BY ROGER DEEM

When the Stomper entered the arena, I began to twitch. We have never gotten along. Ever since I tried to bring a washcloth and bar of soap into the ring to wash him up before one of his matches, he's been sore at me. It's just that he smells so bad!

He glared at me as he came down the arena runway towards the squared circle. His face didn't say much, but I knew he was thinking

vicious, sadistic thoughts in his head.

As he passed the press seats and climbed into the ring, his manager screamed at me, "Hunter, you stuck-up witch, I thought I told you that if I ever saw you at one of my matches again I'd make you trim the hair of my man's underarms!"

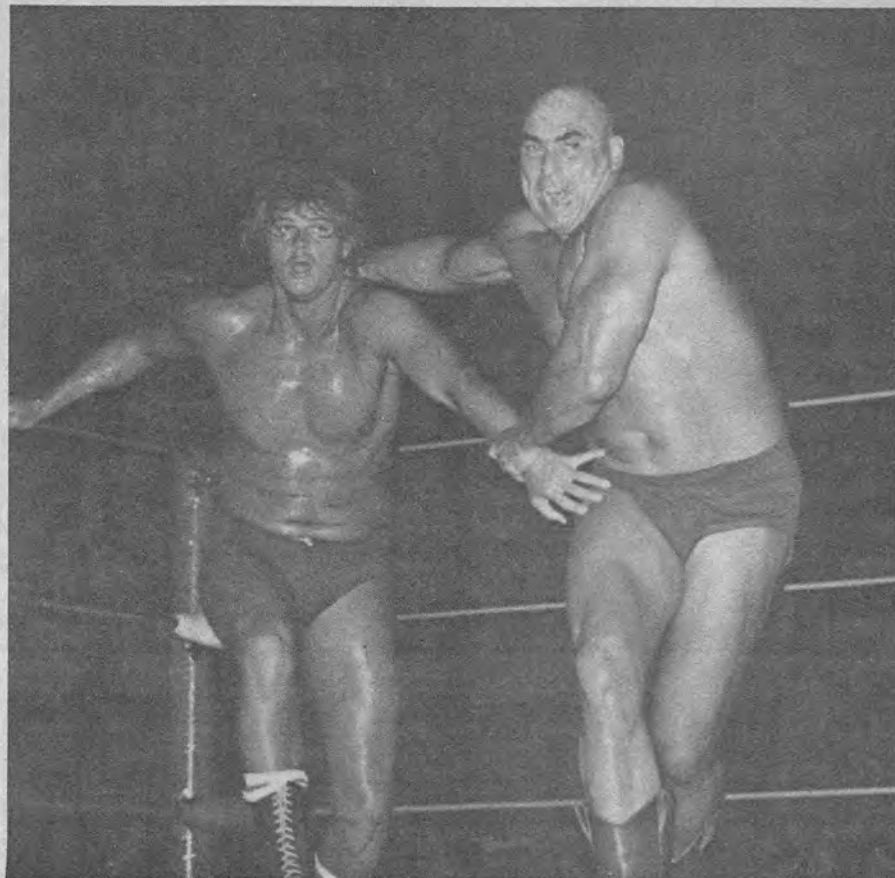
I cringed in my seat. Why doesn't some fan favorite force this

man out of wrestling? He obviously lacked a mother that dressed him when it was cool outside and fed him chicken soup when he had a cold. As a matter of fact, a girlfriend of mine at the beauty salon told me the Stomper sees a psychiatrist. It wouldn't surprise me.

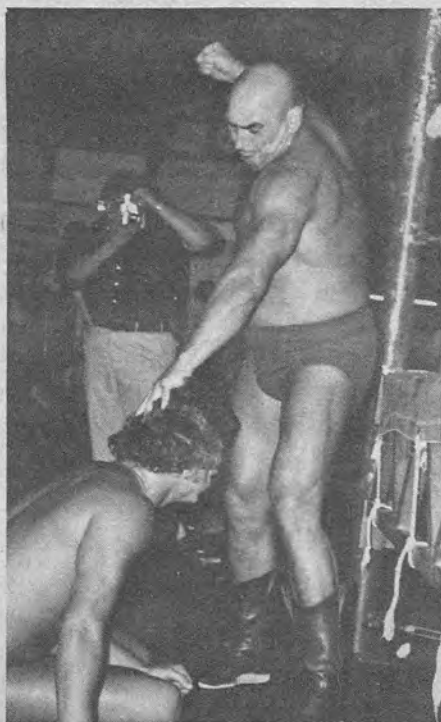
Poor Robert Fuller, who never cursed his grandmother and never showed any disrespect for his



When handsome Robert Fuller wrestles, a special excitement thrills women spectators. To better understand his effect on the ladies, we've asked special correspondent Liz Hunter to describe her feelings as she cheers for Robert to defeat the despised Stomper



The hated Stomper, who has a running feud with our special correspondent Liz Hunter, prepares to whip Robert Fuller into the turnbuckle (above). The Stomper showed no mercy, punishing the handsome Fuller inside the ring (right) and outside, as well (below).



incredible look of hatred. He wouldn't allow me to enter his dressing room. I guess I was lucky.

I got my one lick in, though. Just as he passed me on his way back to the dressing area, I swung my pocketbook at his bald, horrendous head. I just missed him. As he turned around to see who attacked him, I licked my lips and threw him a gigantic kiss. Three security guards had to restrain him. Just goes to show you, no one in the wrestling world pushes around Liz Hunter. See you again and have a happy. □

BEAST

elders, was in trouble this match. I hope the Stomper's insane reaction to my presence didn't result in the hideous attack suffered by Fuller. Anyway, Fuller isn't exactly green, and he handled himself well against the gross import reject from Mongolia. Fuller nevertheless took a pretty gruesome beating.

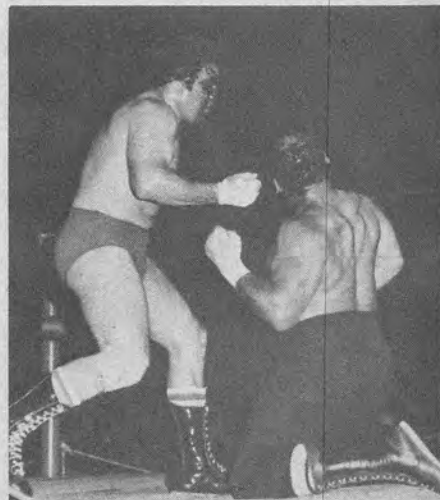
As the Stomper left the ring, he again stared at me with an



PAUL JONES USED BRASS KNUCKLES ON ME!

By Cyclone Negro

PHOTOS BY BILL JANOSIK



Paul Jones winds up to hit Cyclone Negro with a hard right hand (left), which knocked Negro clear off his feet (above). Did Jones wear brass knuckles?

THIS HERE FELLA, Paul Jones, has been given a lot of ink about what kind of nice guy he's supposed to be. Horse mucus! I want the whole world to know that Paul Jones used brass knuckles on me.

Yup, brass knuckles. That goody-goody gook knew he couldn't beat me in a fair fight and he knew he could get away with anything he wants, 'cause those lousy refs turn the other way.

I hadda get 30 stitches on my head 'cause Jones used that foreign object on me. Listen here, these supposed good guys can get away with anything. The ignoramus fans believe how good they are and how kind they are. Again, horse mucus to that.

I've been in this business and seen a lot and I got a lot to tell. This ain't the first time Jones has

(Continued on page 62)

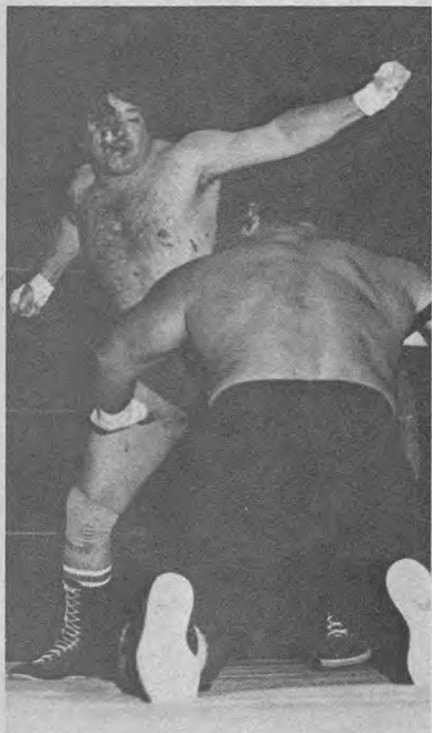
Every man is entitled to his say, even Cyclone Negro. Though we defend Negro's right to make his accusations, only the reader can decide whether or not to believe him

THAT'S RIDICULOUS!

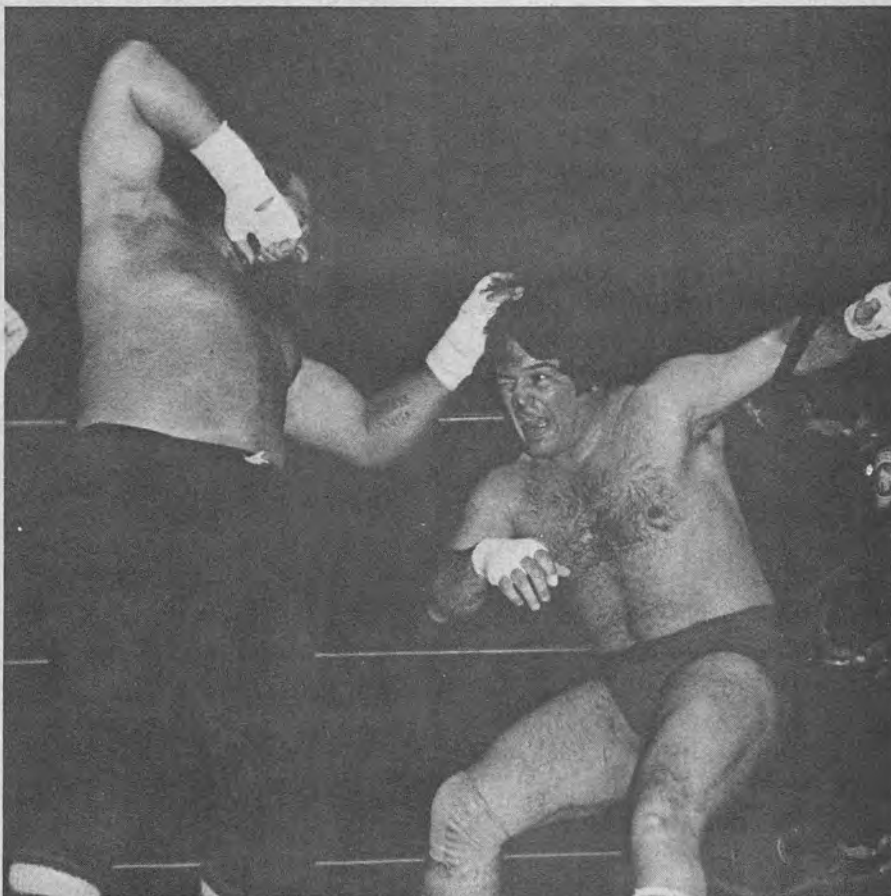
By Paul Jones



PHOTOS BY BILL JANOSIK



Paul Jones, who was badly bloodied by Negro during the match (above), denies charges that he used brass knuckles. Negro often used his own knuckles (right) as he slams Jones with a closed fist.



IT'S SAD THAT I even have to answer such asinine charges. Brass knuckles? That's ridiculous!

First of all, the ref and I really don't like to bring him into this, didn't see anything like brass knuckles. There was no call made. No fans saw it. There's no way in Lord's little kingdom that I could bring in a foreign object.

I have my morals, understand? All through my

career I've refrained from doing anything that would spoil my image as a clean wrestler. Why would I suddenly change?

Look, maybe somewhere, somehow, a person could make a case if this had been a title match. Knowing how desperately I want a championship, maybe someone could see a justification for me bringing in a foreign object.

(Continued on page 62)

Throughout the history of wrestling, there have been many great feuds. However, few have approached the savagery, cruelty, and hatred that crackles between Dusty Rhodes and Ernie Ladd. They are quickly approaching the explosion from which only one of them can survive!

THE WHITE BANDAGE glistened against the sweating black skin. Ernie Ladd looked down and examined his menacing weapon. He chuckled, giggled, then broke out into fiendish laughter which shattered the quiet of his dressing room.

"This here little goodie is gonna do in the blond-haired ton of dog meat once and for all. When I finish digging my thumb into Dusty Rhodes and punching my fist into Dusty Rhodes and pushing my knee into Dusty Rhodes, man oh man, only gonna be one thing left.

"I'm gonna make Dusty Rhodes my slave. Hah, hah, that's a fine thought. I'll prance that donkey around, maybe ride him a little, have him pick me some fruits, fan my handsome face and fetch some water.

"Dumb boy like that is only good for such chores. Hah, that's all the fat boy gonna be good for once I finish with him. A dog slave, hah, that's a fine one." Ladd slapped his massive thigh.

It is an intense hatred, a feud which has devoured arena after arena, uncovering its fumes of hate.

Dusty Rhodes versus Ernie Ladd.

"Ernie Ladd, that skinny goon," chortled Dusty. "He's too stupid to go down. How many times have I beaten his butt and

Ernie Ladd's Terrible Vow:

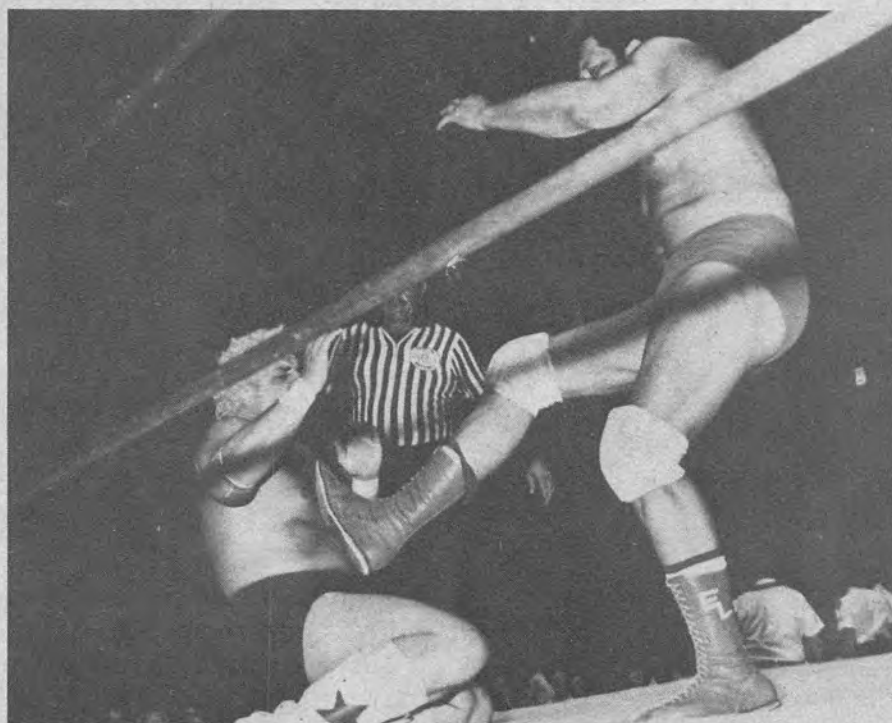


The self-proclaimed "King of Wrestling," Ernie "Big Cat" Ladd (above) is out to corral the American Dream, Dusty Rhodes. Ladd wants to make Rhodes his personal slave. The two have had a long and vicious feud across the arenas of the country.

"I'LL MAKE DUSTY R



The huge figure of Ernie Ladd clearly has Dusty Rhodes in trouble (above) as Ladd pounds away at Dusty's unprotected, bloody face. Ladd stomps on Rhodes (below), a man he wants to see out of wrestling. These foes were once friends.



he's just too damn dumb to know when to quit. How many times, man?"

How many, indeed. Long ago they called each other friend. Long ago they wrestled as a tag team. Until one night a betrayal twisted its way into their partnership.

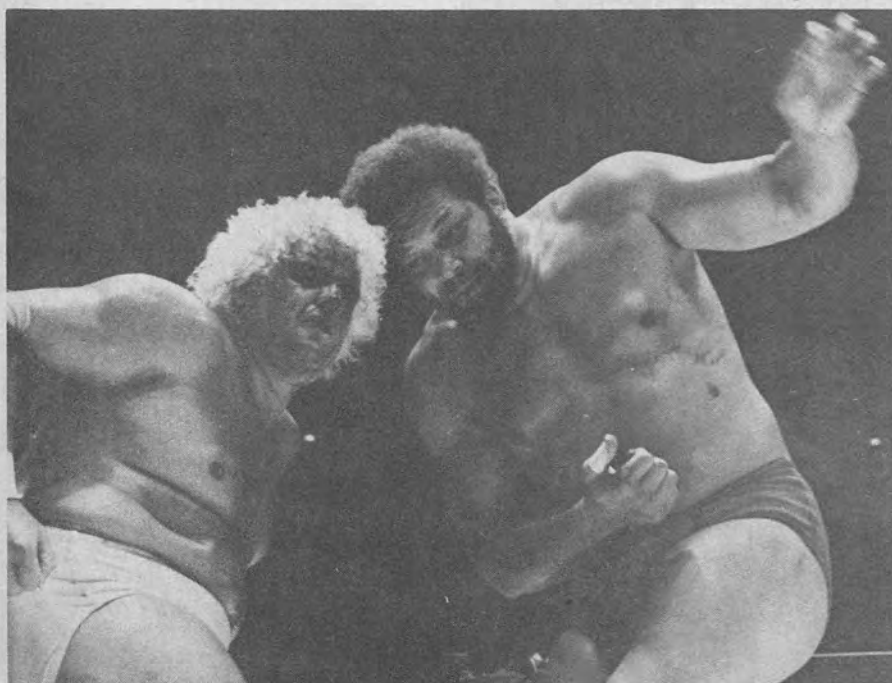
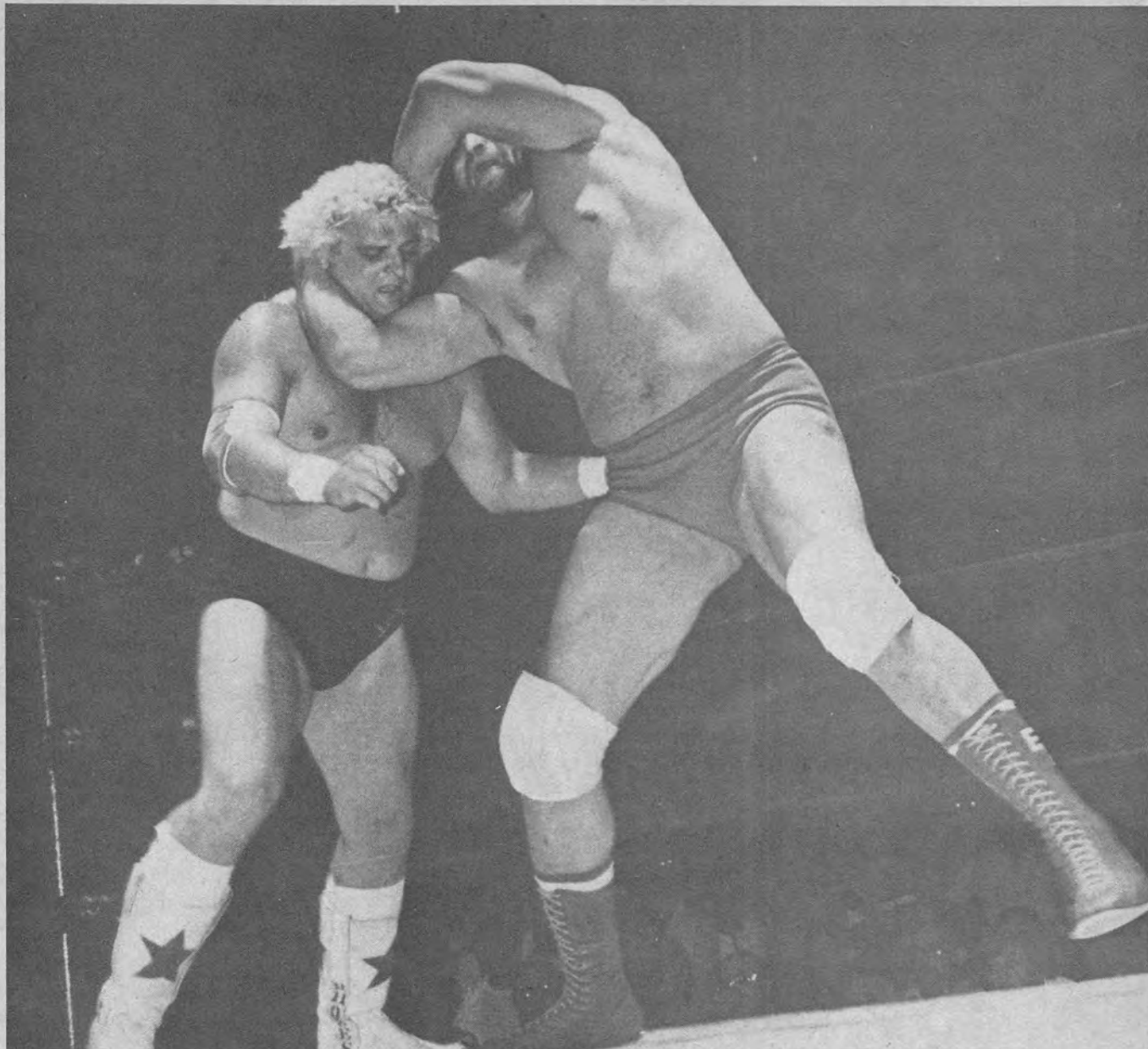
Betrayal. A friendship soured by mistrust and poisoned by hate.

"He once said he was gonna follow me anywhere to destroy my face," Rhodes chuckled. "Am I destroyed? Do I look all bloodied up from big bad Ernie?"

"Nah, he's just another stiff I gotta wrestle. I'll be lookin' forward to twistin' him into the ground. Who wouldn't? I don't think he's much of a wrestler."

Ladd's giggles and Rhodes' dismissals are erased by the feverish preparation each is

RHODES MY SLAVE!"



Ladd, who will wrestle Rhodes again in the very near future, sets himself to deliver a crushing snap mare (above) to Rhodes. Ladd's controversial thumb has Dusty bloodied in the corner (left).

investing into their big upcoming match in the New Orleans Superdome.

Dusty has set up a full-blown training camp with an entourage. *A la* Ali perhaps?

"Hey, Muhammad got his training camp notions from the Dream," Rhodes grinned. "Nice to have this sort of atmosphere to work in. This way I can train, do my exercises and think about how much I hate Ernie Ladd.

"I always wanted to set up a camp like this. No reason why the top wrestler in the world shouldn't have his own camp.

"This way I don't have the kind of distractions I usually do. But it'll be fine. My people are around me, as is my mission.

"I want to end Ernie Ladd's career. Yup, you heard it right from the American Dream. I want to end Ladd's career in the Superdome."

Ladd mocks Rhodes' training camp concept.

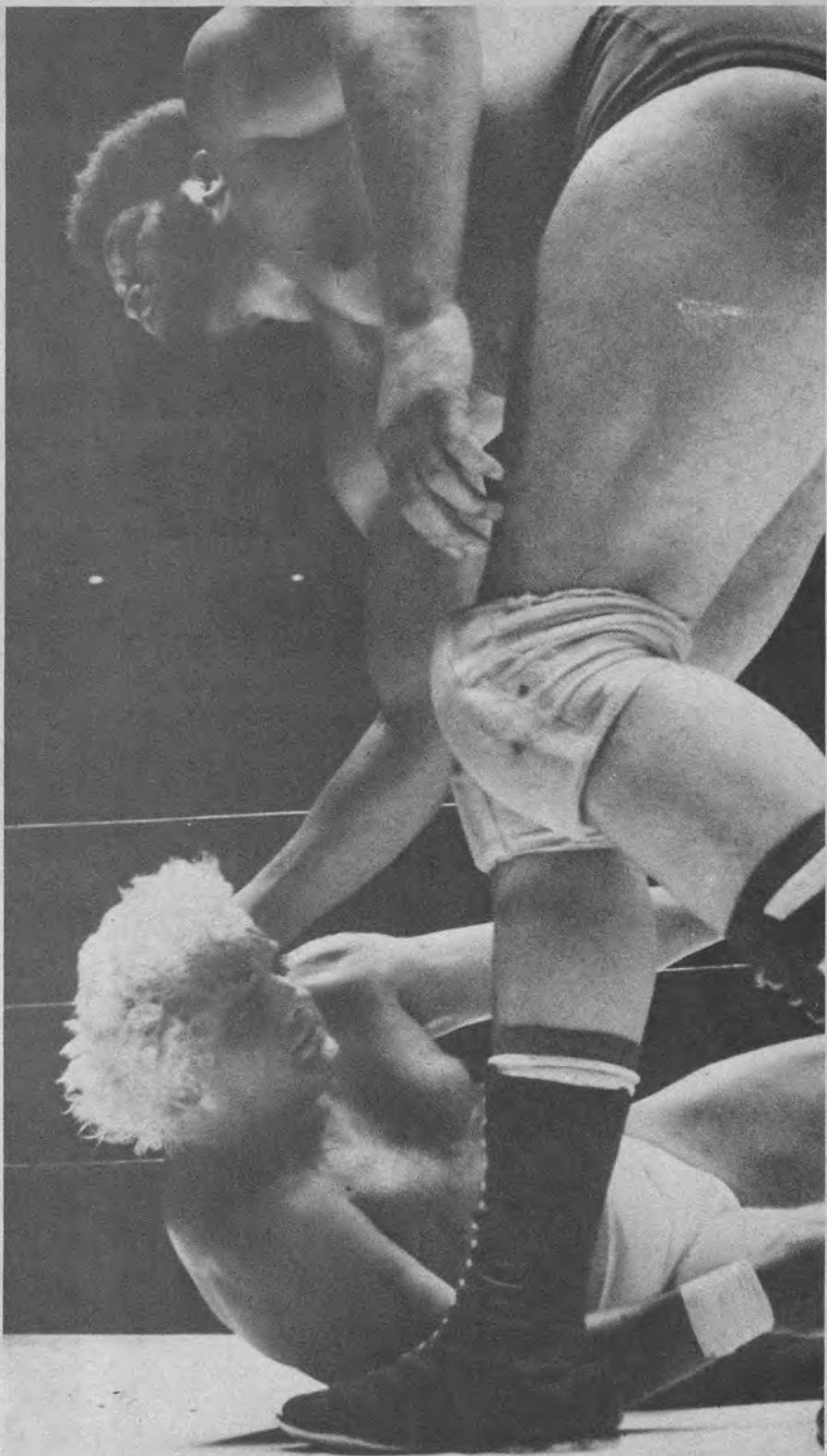
"Probably needs guys to teach



Ladd, who claims his thumb was injured while playing professional football in the American Football League years ago, prepares to bloody Rhodes' face with the deadly finger (above). Dusty, who has been training in a specially constructed camp, is helpless as Ladd moves in for the kill (right).

him how to wrestle. That's why he's doin' this. Most guys gotta rely on skill to get by. Not Rhodes. He ain't got talent. Only blubber.

"Some guys need that to prop up their egos. I don't need that crap. My ego is based on fact. I'm the meanest, toughest dude alive. I ain't afraid of no one,



including blimp-head Rhodes.

"Let 'em fool with that dumb-ass training camp. Don't impress me. I'm impressed by one thing only. My mirror. I may pay a little visit to Dusty's training camp to check things out," Ladd smirked, "just to see if blimpie is eatin' well and livin' right.

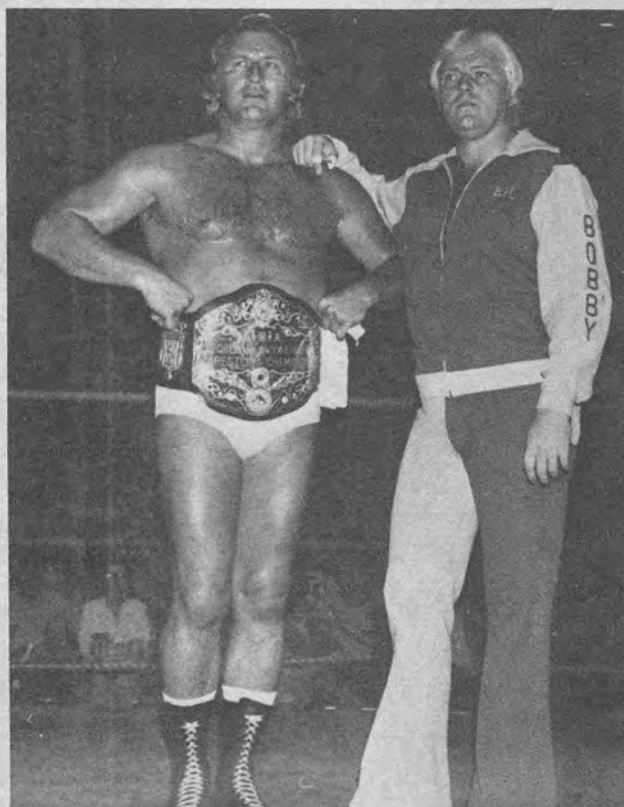
"I may even do it before it gets dark."

Rhodes is using excessive caution, both to guard his camp, and the secrets he will uncover on Ernie Ladd in their upcoming matches.

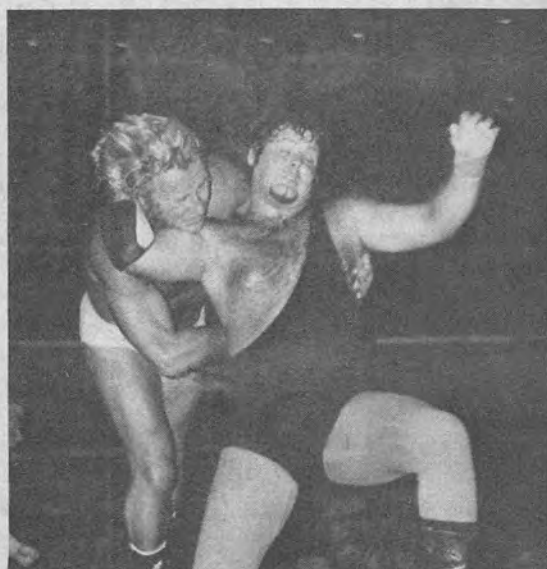
"I'm gonna whip his butt. Doesn't matter where. I'm just gonna whip him." □

BOBBY HEENAN:

MANAGER OF THE CHAMPION...



Controversial manager Bobby Heenan with AWA champion Nick Bockwinkel (above). When Bockwinkel wrestled ranked challenger Jerry Lawler (left and below), his loyalty was in question.



Bobby Heenan has often said he can do anything. It looks like he may be right. The notorious manager could be getting away with the most scandalous plot in wrestling history

A BLACK BOUND notebook lay opened on his motionless knee. From beneath the tipped brown hat, a pair of beady brown eyes peered at the massive figure tangling with some hated opponent.

Thick fingers scribbled some barely legible sentences. Eyes squinted shrewdly. His hand touched his cap and the man rose.

He returned the next night. And the next night. And the evening after that. For one week, Bobby Heenan sat in the

audience and watched Jerry Lawler wrestle.

Why? Two reasons have been advanced. Both are reasonable. One is unnerving.

"I was down there in Memphis to scout," insisted Heenan. "Must everything I do be questioned by you leeches? I got a legitimate right to scout an opponent.

"This is the first time the AWA's been in Memphis and I hadda get some dope on that dope Lawler. I saw he ain't got nothing on my man Nick. So

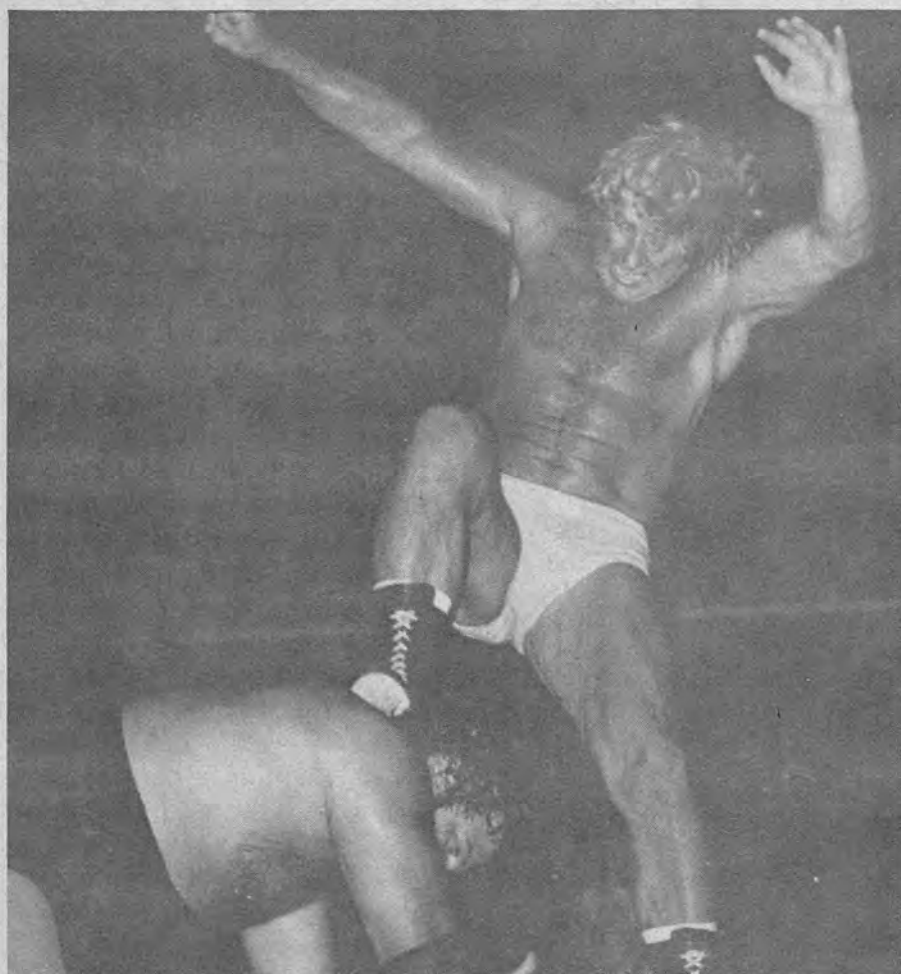
that's why I was at the arena every night for a week. You think Bockwinkle has risen to become the greatest wrestler in history just on my good looks? Hell, no, we got to work to stay on top."

Heenan's remarks are true. The AWA has never been in Memphis. Jerry Lawler was scheduled to wrestle Bockwinkle for the title, and Heenan had a good reason to scout Lawler.

Maybe the wrestling world is too suspicious of Heenan. Maybe he did only want to scout

AND THE CHALLENGER?

PHOTOS BY ROGER DEEM



Nick Bockwinkle stomps Jerry Lawler (above). Bockwinkle's manager Bobby Heenan has been seen on numerous occasions with Lawler and talking on the phone to him. Is it possible that Heenan is managing both men?

Lawler.

Then why did he meet with Lawler on three separate occasions while in Memphis? Why did he make five long-distance phone calls to Memphis? Why was Heenan seen laughing with Lawler like they were best of friends.

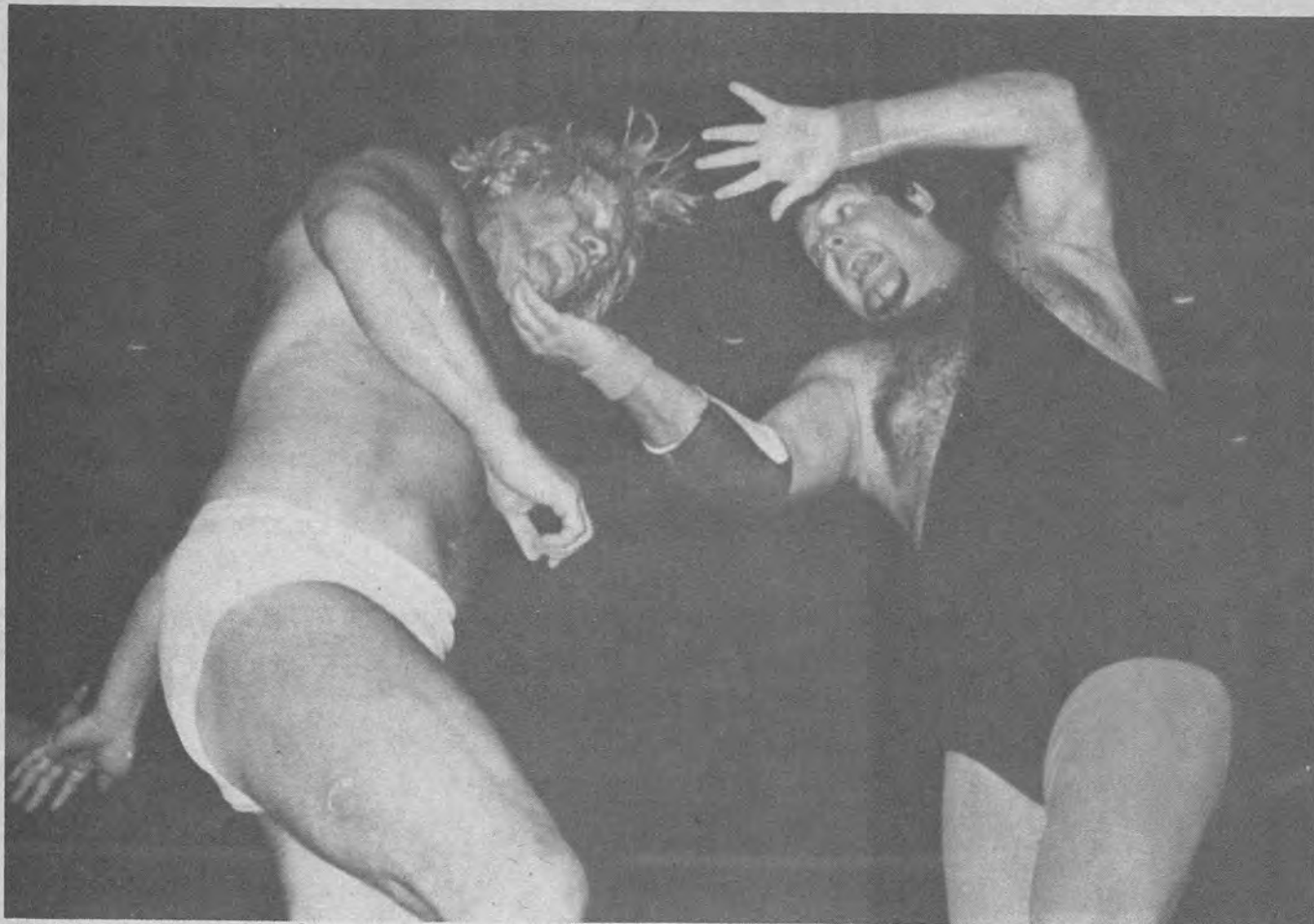
Yes, has Bobby Heenan stooped to a new level of hideous treachery? Is it possible that, when Nick Bockwinkle placed his belt against Lawler, both men were managed by the same man?

Bobby Heenan.

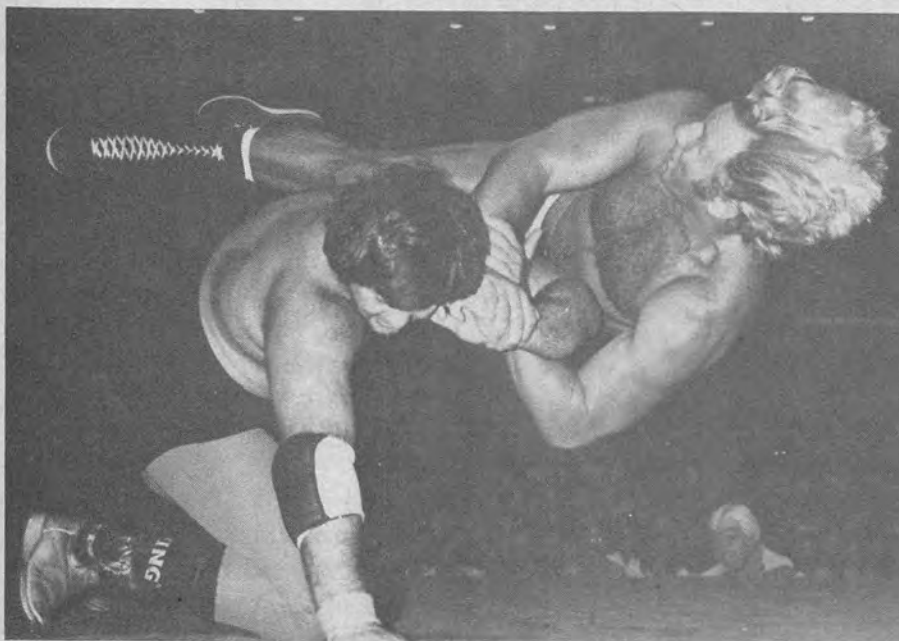
"That's the most irresponsible statement you fool writers have ever written, and if I see any of that garbage in your stinking magazine, I'm gonna sue your lousy butts off," shouted Heenan just before he threw us out of the room.

Heenan did not scare us. We have photostated copies of his phone bills. We have pictures of Heenan and Lawler together. We have witnesses who will swear they saw Heenan and Lawler together.

Assuming Heenan has indeed managed to ensnare Lawler in



Jerry Lawler, a possible future champion, goes to work on the neck of champion Bockwinkle (above). With Heenan overworking Bockwinkle, speculation that the devious manager will use the current champ up and replace him with Lawler has surfaced. Lawler has always given Bockwinkle all he could handle (below).



his grotesque ambitions, the principal question remains why.

What aims will be served by managing both Lawler and Bockwinkle? Can either man be fully represented by a manager

whose interests are colored by greed? Hasn't Heenan already gotten Bob Orton Jr. under his wicked wing and promised that Orton and Bockwinkle will be AWA tag team champions?

There are many considerations here. The most obvious one is that Bobby Heenan is looking to ruin Bockwinkle, extract every ounce from Nick, then discard him like a vandalized car. Bockwinkle has taken on a grueling, almost suicidal schedule of matches. Heenan has allowed him no rest. With AWA expansion into Memphis, Bockwinkle's title defenses are sure to increase.

Isn't it possible that, by handling Lawler, Heenan is insuring himself against Bockwinkle's inevitable decline? Wasn't signing a contract with Orton the first step toward this ugly result?

Heenan will not admit to such ambitions. Lawler refused to speak to us.

One man did talk, did issue one quick remark which summarizes all the bizarre intrigue of this affair.

"Man, I'm tired," said Nick Bockwinkle. □

ASK ANYONE WHO has ever been on top. The whole world wants a piece of you. Everyone suddenly becomes your long-lost best friend. People are around you all day, but if you slip and lose that number one ranking, they soon disappear. You are alone, feeling empty, as your supposed admirers have taken little bits and pieces out of you. You have only yourself.

Many wrestling observers are speculating as to whether this common turn of events is happening to WWWF champion Bob Backlund. Specifically, the speculation concerns his trusted manager, Arnold Skoaland. Is there a rift developing between Bob Backlund and his manager?

The talk and rumors surfaced recently in a tag team match. Manager Skoaland, always an admirer of top-notch grappler Chief Peter Maivia, matched the High Samoan Chief with Backlund in a tag team contest. Skoaland felt that Maivia's spirit and speed would match well



Manager Arnold Skoaland and his star grappler, WWWF champion Bob Backlund.

with Backlund's wrestling skills and championship confidence. It was a dreadful mistake.

The opposition was recently converted rulebreaker Victor Rivera and the dastardly Spiros Arion, the Iron Greek. It could

have been a great moment for the glorious sport of wrestling and its sense of fair play. Instead it turned into a horrible evening of trickery, deception, back-turning and evil.

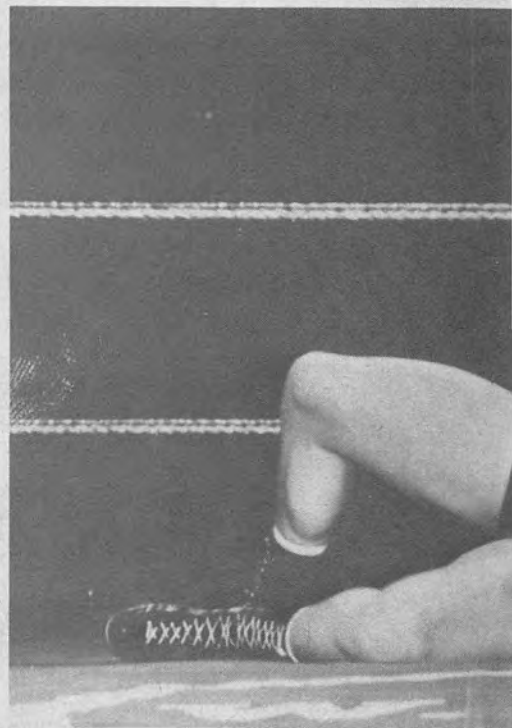
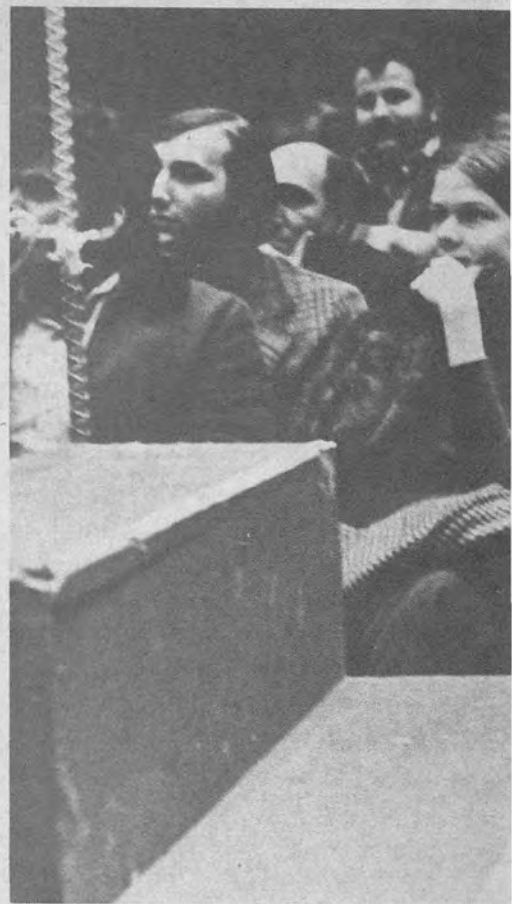
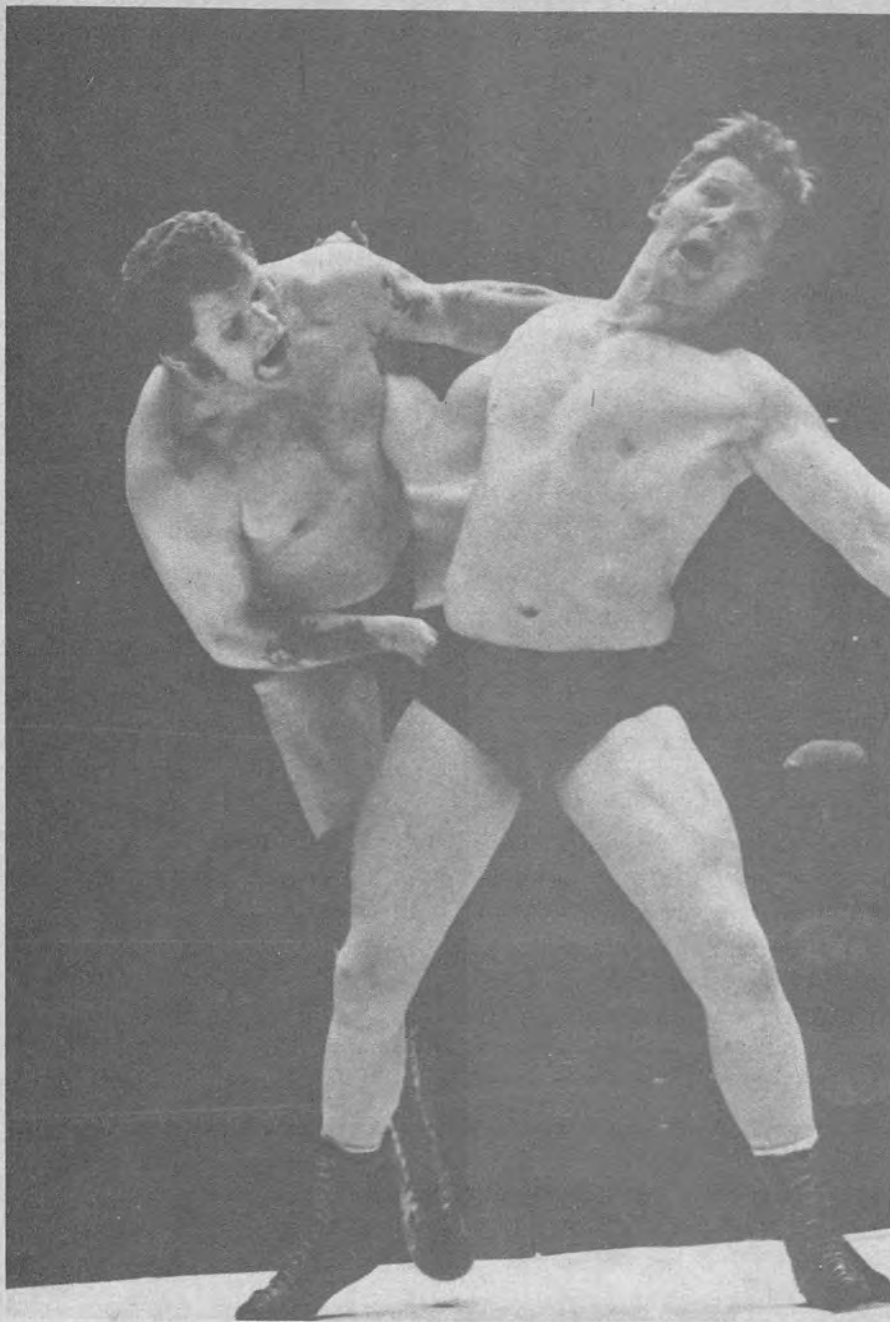
The match began and the fans were anxious to see Backlund and Maivia prove to Rivera and Arion that good, scientific wrestling would nullify rulebreaking. Backlund began the match and wrestled well, showing many of the classic moves that brought him to the pinnacle of the sport.

However after a brief period of neutralizing Arion and Rivera, Backlund grew tired and moved quickly to his corner to tag the fresh and energetic Maivia. But the Samoan Chief was less than receptive. He waited several seconds, mulling the decision, before he tagged off and entered the squared circle. It was a sign of things to come.

After quickly tagging back to Backlund, Maivia stared at Arion. Ringside observers say that they watched him wink to

IS THERE A RIFT BETWEEN BOB BACKLUND AND HIS MANAGER?

In wrestling, a manager is considered only as good as his last decision. Arnold Skoaland convinced Bob Backlund to be Peter Maivia's tag team partner. When Maivia betrayed Backlund, Skoaland had to take the blame. Can Arnold's punishment be anything less than banishment?



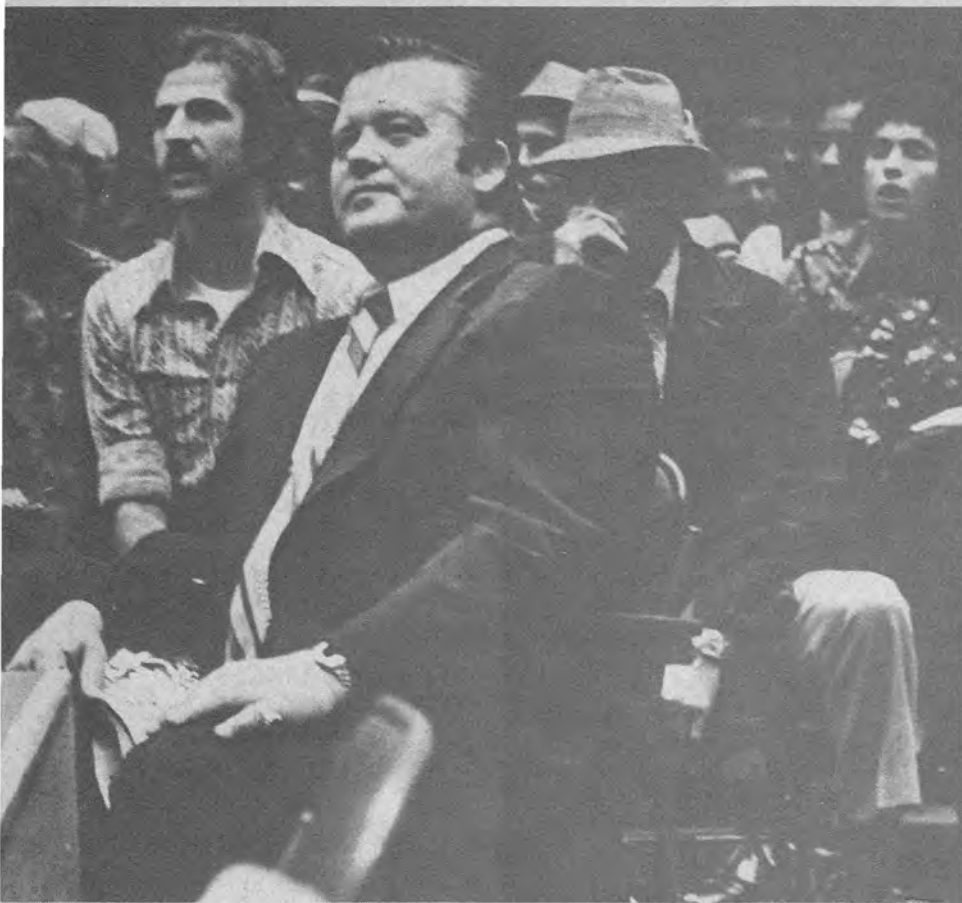
Champion Bob Backlund against champion Harley Race (above). Backlund has always respected and listened to the man he has chosen as his manager, Arnold Skoaland. Is there a rift developing between the two? (Left) Arnold raps the belt around Backlund's waist.

the Greek wrecking machine, as if to say, "Now is the time." The scene was strangely reminiscent of Brutus' betrayal of Julius Caesar.

Maivia entered the ring and began pounding away at Backlund, as Arion held him.

Soon Rivera joined in and pummeled the champion as well. The fans were in a state of shock. But no one was as surprised as Arnold Skoaland.

Skoaland immediately signalled the dressing room area for assistance, and help came



Arnold Skoaland (top page) chose the High Samoan Chief Peter Maivia (above right) to team with his champion Bob Backlund (above) in tag team competition. However the choice was a poor one. Arnold knows what the action is like, being a former wrestler. He has taken on the likes of fellow manager Louis Albano (right) and others.

for Backlund. However before Arion, Maivia and Rivera were done, the champ had withstood a tremendous beating.

"I guess I made a simple error of judgement in picking Maivia to team with Bobby," a miserable Skoaland said after the match. "Everyone in wrestling and especially all of Bobby's fans know that I always have acted in the best interests of my wrestler. He is the champ and I would rather leave the sport than see anything bad happen to him."

But something bad did happen to him, Arnold, and many fans feel that you are responsible.

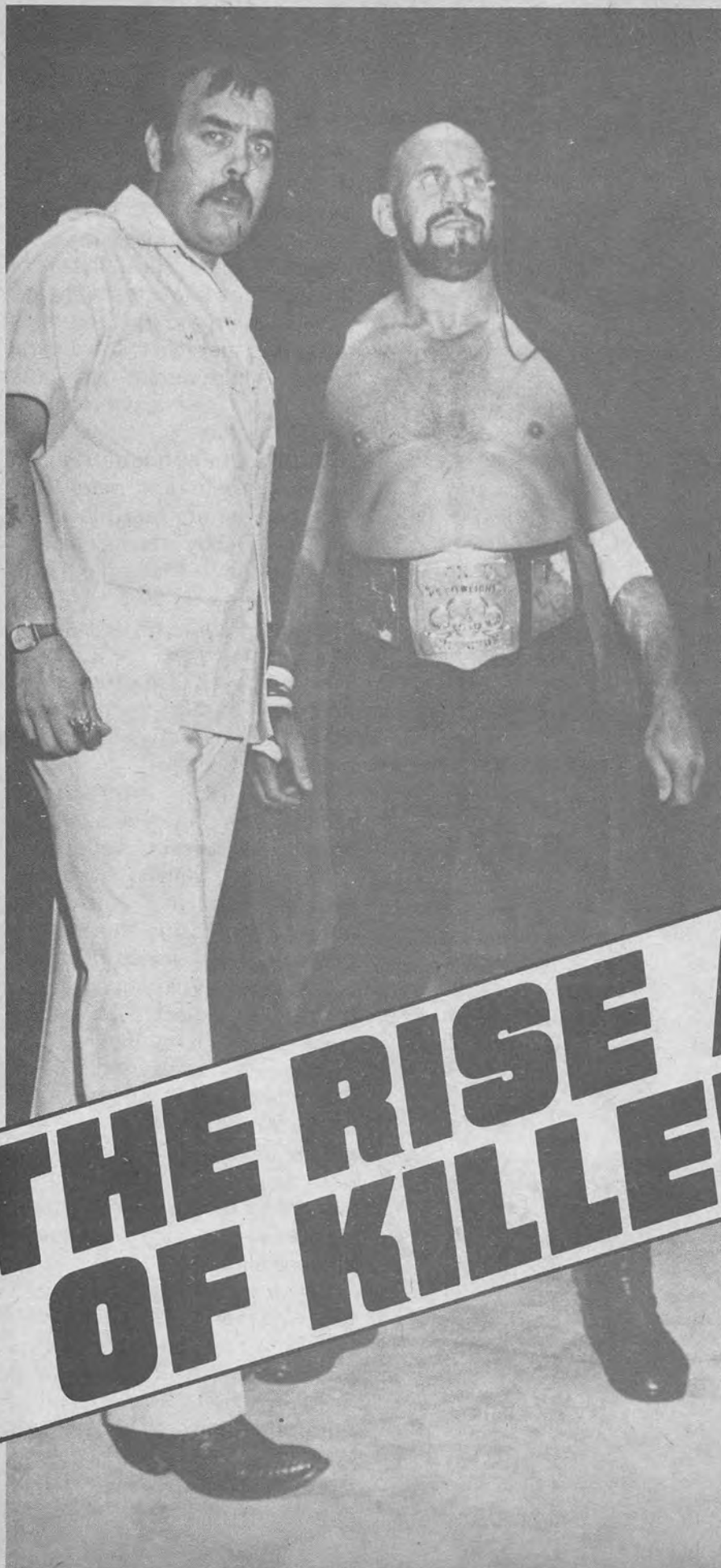
"Since Bobby is being patched up right now, I haven't had a chance to sit down and talk to him about this yet," Skoaland said. "But when he's ready, we're going to have an important man-to-man talk and straighten out any doubts he may have."

Backlund's immediate reaction to the events of the strange night were cautious.

"I think Maivia surprised everyone tonight," he said, carefully caressing the bruises inflicted on his boyish face.

"I was totally caught off-guard by Peter. I expect such tactics from Arion and Rivera, but Maivia was always different. There is no way I can seriously blame Arnold for this. He acted on my behalf, and picked Peter because he thought Maivia would be the most ideal partner. He was wrong, but I can't hold it against him."

Backlund is forgiving, more forgiving than the skeptics. They will continue to question the relationship of Backlund and Skoaland. First they will say that Backlund is burning himself out. Then they will say that Skoaland isn't trustworthy. The match against Rivera, Arion and surprisingly Maivia can only add fuel to the fire. □



Killer Karl Krupp and his manager, Gary Hart (left). Krupp, an intense grappler, finally met his match in Bruiser Brodie, who bloodied him with a chair (above).

KILLER KARL KRUPP! The mere mention of the name sends shivers of terror

THE RISE AND FALL OF KILLER KRUPP

throughout the wrestling community. Managed by the hated Gary Hart, Krupp has used his personal German methods to make a deep impression on many of the U.S. wrestling regions. Few rulebreakers are as ruthless. Few good guys so successful. The question wrestling is asking is, "Can Killer Karl Krupp and his vicious clawhold

be stopped?" Only one man had the answer that everyone hoped to hear.

"Can Krupp be stopped? Are you crazy?" manager Gary Hart asked. "The man wrestles with a fire in his gut that drives him to marvelous feats of skill, strength, and savagery. Where other wrestlers have sparks of brilliance, the Killer is on fire! There is no wrestler in action today that can stop him. His rise is without hesitation or limitation. He'll go as far as his brilliant body and even more brilliant manager will take him, which is all the way, baby."

Manager Hart's words were premature, however. On a fateful night in Texas, Killer Karl Krupp was stopped by the most

What this means is that Krupp will, and must battle any wrestler that promoters can match him up with. Not only is such a contract lucrative for both Krupp and Hart, but the terms of the contract scare many opponents. "If he is willing to wrestle anyone, he must be a madman," they think. The contract, along with Krupp's reputation in the ring, make him one of the most feared grapplers in the history

depended on it for the entire match. Sure there are stronger guys, quicker guys and guys with more moves, but Krupp wins the award for intensity throughout a match. And when he gets you in that clawhold of his, forget it. It feels as if someone put a super-powerful vacuum cleaner right to your stomach and your guts are sucked right out of your body. I've never been in so much pain."

KILLER KRUPP

PHOTOS BY JIM CALDWELL

unlikely of heroes. Bruiser Brodie. How could these two animals meet in the same match? How could one man survive?

Manager Gary Hart is no fool, despite his questionable tactics. In lining up matches for Krupp, Hart arranged what is known as an "open contract."

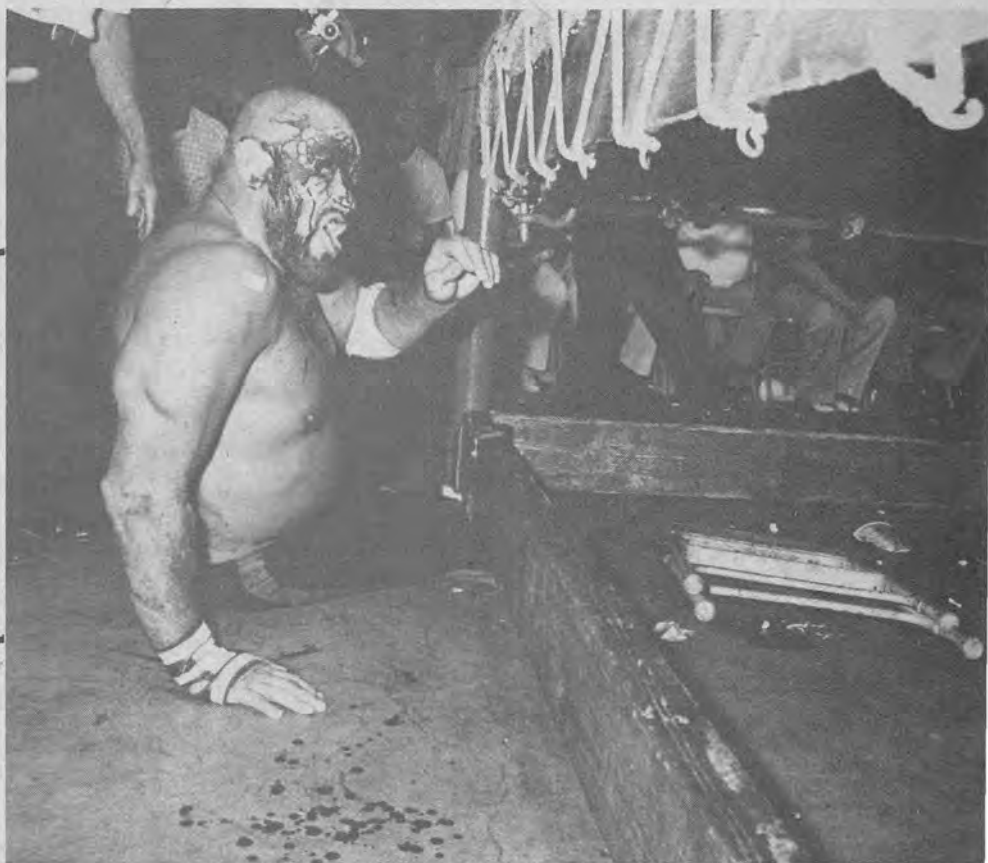
of the sport.

One wrestler who asked to remain anonymous, described what wrestling Krupp is like.

"He comes at you like his life

But the tough Bruiser Brodie also has an open contract and promoters finally put together the dream match. Many bets

(Continued on page 64)



A defeated and scarred Killer Karl Krupp seems astonished (above) as he has been bloodied to a pulp by the tough Bruiser Brodie. This match rates as the low point in Krupp's successful career, but he promises to be back in form soon.

Could anyone stop the rampaging Killer Krupp? Would all of wrestling be forced to suffer under his merciless reign of terror? Only one man could answer those questions. Only one man could save wrestling

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from Page 8)



Peter Maivia (above) is now the most hated man in the WWWF! Meet the new Mid-Atlantic heavyweight champion—Tony Atlas (below).



refuses to do his own dirtywork . . . Claiming he got a "raw deal from the referee," Ken Patera hopes to win back the Mid-Atlantic title he lost to sensational Tony Atlas . . . "Playboy" Gary Hart is considering managing Bill White. White has improved greatly since he entered Texas, beating many main-event grapplers . . . Skip Young and Jay Youngblood are a new team that could soar all the way to the top of the tag team

ratings . . . Oki Shikina's deadly karate throat chop sent young Johnny Mantell to the hospital with a broken windpipe.

East coast fans still shocked at Chief Peter Maivia's "turncoat" actions against Bob Backlund and manager Arnold Skoaland. For those of you who don't know about this by now, Backlund and Maivia were molded into a tag team by Skoaland. After several successful matches, Maivia became fed up with "taking orders from the two of them," causing him to viciously attack both Skoaland and Backlund during an important tag team confrontation and then go on to help his former opponents wipe the mat with Bob and Arnie! Maivia has also double-crossed Jay Strongbow. "He is another big man who likes to give me orders! I am my own man and I don't take orders from anyone!"

Rumors persist that WWWF champion Backlund has finally signed to wrestle NWA United States champion Ric Flair . . . Manager Fred Blassie has taken two of his charges, Victor Rivera and Spiros Arion, and made them a tag team combination . . . Pedro Morales negotiating with California promoters for a series of main event matches in their state . . . Johnny Valentine is advising Andre the Giant during Andre's stay in Texas. Valentine can give Andre much knowledge about the state's grapplers since he attends the matches nightly.

Florida fans have a new hero in the person of Prince Tonga, who hails from a South Sea island . . . Sonny King is invading the Sunshine State, but not as a wrestler—as a manager. He is the brains behind Pak Song and Eric the Red . . . A masked man who calls himself "The White Knight"

boasts he will win the NWA title from Harley Race by February 16. "It's in the stars," the Knight explains. "My horoscope has charted it all out for me. Fate will be mine by the 16th."



Nick Bockwinkel wrestles Billy Robinson. During a recent interview it became obvious that Nick's life is run by Bobby Heenan.

I finally cornered AWA champion Nick Bockwinkel for an interview without manager Bobby Heenan (who, as you know, is always by Nick's side). Nick was just elaborating about how Bobby *does not* run his life when Heenan burst into the room and ordered Nick to "shut up this minute! You know you are not allowed to discuss anything with members of the press unless I am present!" he continued. And that was the end of that interview. Who's running who's life, Nick?

Bruiser Brodie says that "close friends of Dusty Rhodes have paid me \$10,000 *not* to wrestle Rhodes again. I almost killed him the first time we clashed and I hear his family and friends are scared that I'll kill him next time. So they took up a collection and they're buyin' me off. I'm not proud. I can use all the dough I can get. Besides, I'm just helpin' to keep the fat boy alive!"

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CORRESPONDENT REPORTS

(Continued from Page 12)



Jerry Lawler (above) and Joe LeDuc (below) have recently developed a bitter rivalry, including a steel cage match.



EVANSVILLE, INDIANA—
Correspondent: Troy Rigg—A bitter rivalry is developing between Jerry Lawler and "Lumberjack" Joe LeDuc. As is often the case, the two rivals turned to the dangerous steel cage match to produce a dominant man once and for all. Jerry Lawler gained an early advantage and never let up. He controlled the match and eventually won the rugged contest. However the match continued outside the cage, and the referee was injured in the battle.

In other action: Bill "Superstar" Dundee and Olympian Terry Sawyer defeated NWA jr. heavyweight champion Nelson Royal and Lumberjack Jon Louie. Wayne "the Fonz" Farris and Handsome Jimmy Valiant survived against Nature Boy Frankie Laine and Mike Boyer. Jackie Welch edged Hans Schroeder. Steve Kyle topped Don Bass.

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON—
Correspondent: Ken Hamblin— In a Fiji Island death match, Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka met Dr. Hiro Ota. Ota was weary at first, but his manager, Apache Bill Ramos talked him into entering the ring. The two contestants went at each other with all they had until Ota threw Snuka over the top rope. The referee began to count Snuka out, not realizing that manager



Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka (above) met Dr. Hiro Ota in a vicious Fiji Islands death match. Snuka was awarded the decision by the referee.

Ramos was kicking and holding Superfly, preventing his re-entrance into the ring. When the referee found out what happened, he awarded the match to Snuka.

In other bouts: Ricky Thompson and Jonathan Boyd stopped Apache Bull Ramos and Kurt Von Steiger. Leapin' Lanny Poffo upset big Gene Kiniski. Dutch Savage downed Miguel Perez. Killer Tim Brooks stopped Johnny Eagles. Rowdy Roddy Piper whipped Rockin' Roll Zumorff. ☐

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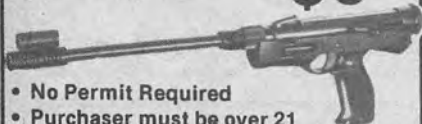
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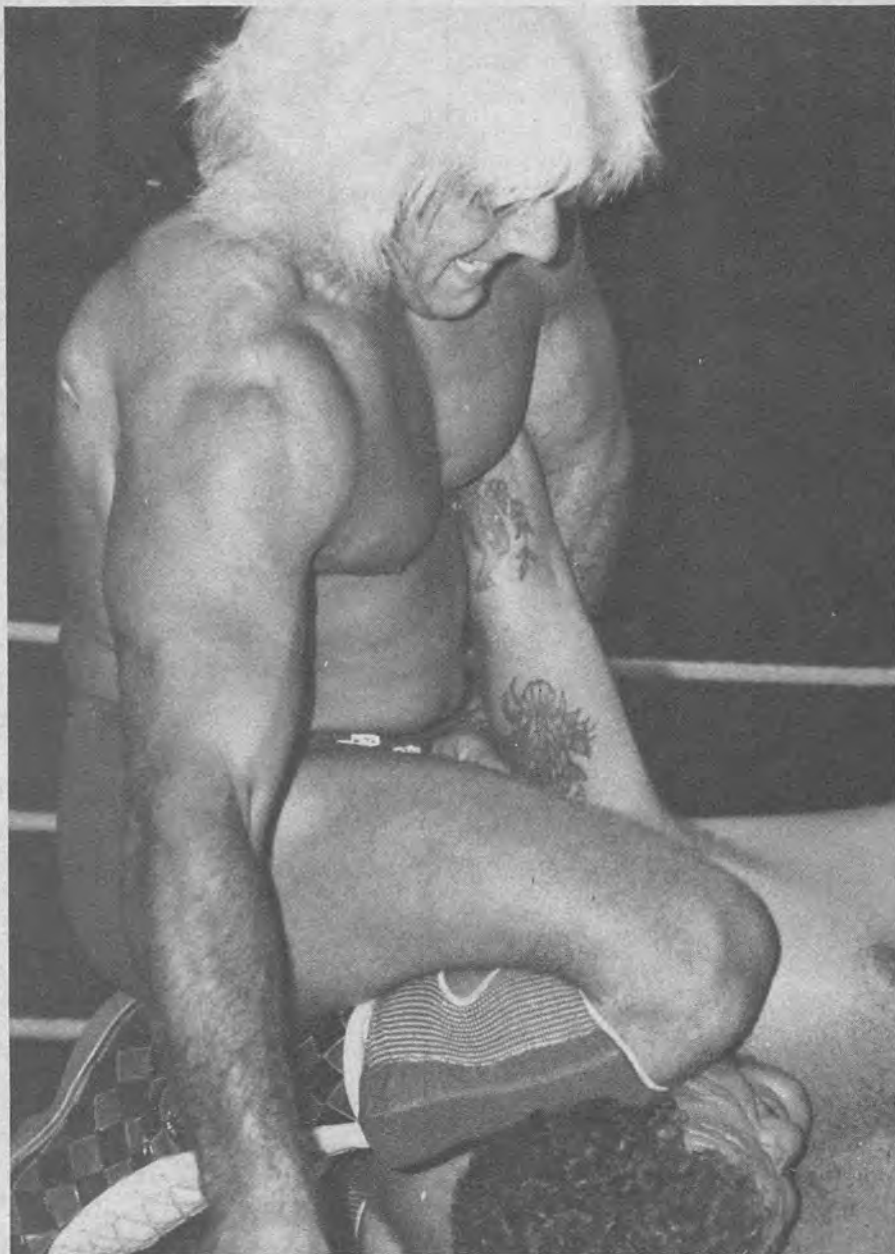
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RIC FLAIR

(Continued from Page 21)



Challenger Ric Flair crushes NWA champion Harley Race with a knee to the side of the face (above). Flair and Race battled ferociously to the one-hour time limit, but Flair inexplicably claims that he won the belt but wouldn't take it. Come on, Ric. We all know how badly you really want the belt!

He grinned. Ric Flair grinned at Harley Race and shuffled out of the ring.

"I won, I don't understand why everyone is so hot." Flair reclined in a thick leather chair, propped his feet up and twisted open a beer can. "I got Race's NWA belt. But it was kinda too easy. The old man was huffin' and puffin' at the end. I didn't

want no fatality on my conscience."

Before his remarks cause any further confusion, a recital of exactly what transpired that night is in order. The two men, with no use for each other, wrestled to the ferocious one-hour time limit. Typically, Flair contended he won the match. Race retained his belt.

What differed was Flair's reaction to the decision. He did not say how he was robbed. He denied any hints of foul play by the referee. He did not insult Race, the officials or the vendors.

He just sipped on his beer and grinned.

"When I win, I win. I don't need the NWA belt. That simple. This shows what a great man I am, able to win the title and then turn it down.

"How many other men can make that claim . . ."

But, wait, hold it. You didn't win.

"Course I won." The eyes narrowed, then relaxed. The grin remained. "I whupped him in every inch of that ring. I whupped him with every move I knew. I handled every maneuver his old body could throw at me.

"And still I won.

"But the whole point is that I am the only wrestler in the world who is big enough to win a belt and then give it back. Dusty Rhodes, that obese blob, hah, he never did this. Sure, he whined that he won and of course the mags printed his sniveling baloney. But he never won and gave it back.

"Who's another biggie, Andre? He never won a title like this. Same thing, what was it, few months ago they took the title from him after lookin' at films? Not the same as me.

"Name a few more, ah, all bums. Mulligan," he scowled. "Over-sized lard-brain. Greg Valentine, yeah, well, he never got in that situation, you know

This claim to singular accomplishment is food for Flair's hungering ego. He has leaped over similar rulebreaker contentions that belts had been stolen.

For Flair, there must be more.

(Continued on page 52)

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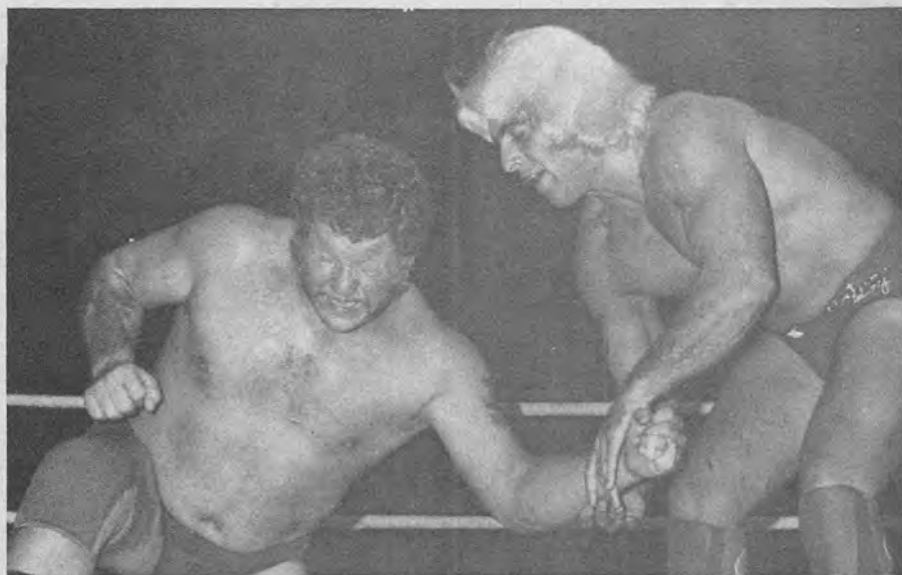
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RIC FLAIR

(Continued from Page 51)



Flair has Race helpless on the mat (above). Flair says that he takes title shots just to stay in shape. Race, grimacing from the effects of a Flair armlock (below), says that Flair has to have his hair mussed before he can win the coveted AWA belt and the glory that goes with it.



He cannot share the spotlight with anyone. He cannot stand his name mentioned in the same breath with another rulebreaker. He considers himself the premier villain in the sport.

He may be right.

"I'm sorry, I just have to laugh at that clown," Race giggled and nearly fell off the stool. "I

know he can't read the rules, but this is ridiculous.

"When there is a draw, the champ holds on . . . what am I saying? The guy is a lunatic. He wants to make himself into this glorious wrestler and he can't even wrestle. He's a little boy who doesn't want his pretty face bloodied.

"Tell that creep if he wants a



Flair appears to be breaking Race's tattooed arm in half (above). The two wrestlers fought bitterly for one full hour of non-stop action.

belt, he has to get his hair mussed," Race snarled, face reddening.

Flair maintained the smile, the impish twinkle in his eyes.

"I won it. Look, guys like Race, they are ugly and they ain't got no talent. They need things like titles. I take the title shots just to keep in shape.

"So these guys would shrivel up and die if their belts were taken from them. That's all they got in the world. Me, I got looks, a great body, personality, a great mind and talent. A belt would be nice, you know, to keep my stomach warm in the winter, but it ain't what I want."

Layers unravel and finally a gleam of truth dances down this dark tunnel known as Ric Flair.

"Yeah, the title is somethin' interesting, a plaything, but I'm after bigger fish." The smile tightened, the eyes slitted and the forehead furrowed into a frown. "I want to accomplish what no one else ever has done.

"Only by this route can I get it. Then I will be immortalized," Flair whispered. "You'll see, you'll all see." □

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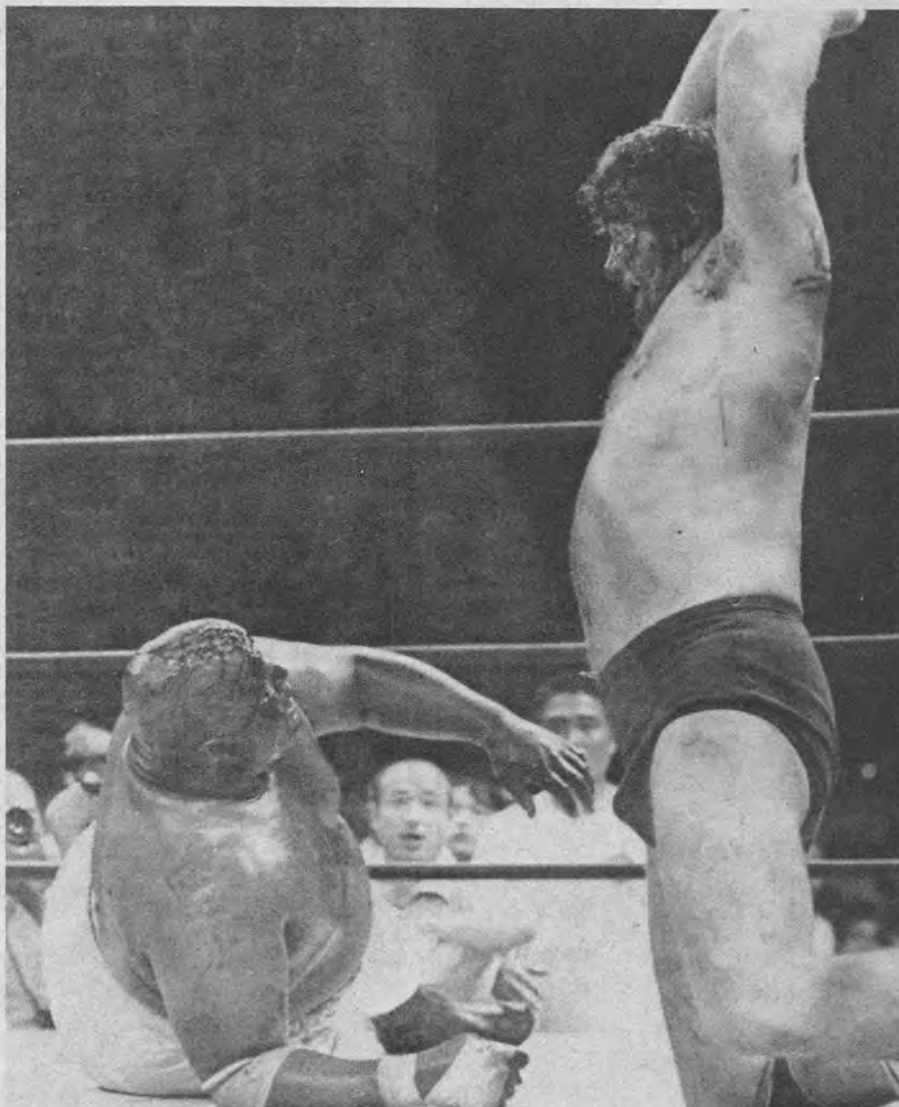
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Funk vs. Abdullah

(Continued from Page 29)



With both competitors bleeding profusely, Funk prepares to pound away on a prone Abdullah (above). Both wrestlers were horrendous sights after the match and several fans had to be treated for shock. A dazed Funk seems to be blinded by his own blood as it trickles across his face (below).



Abdullah from ever using it. Lucky me, huh?"

There were no scouting reports for Funk to rely on. No films, no locker room notes. Only years of experience. Brutal instincts.

And his own lethal maneuver. The "Texas Tornado."

"I have never used it before," Funk said. "It can be fatal. I have never been in a situation where I'd dare use it on an opponent.

"This time, I knew I had to use the Tornado. It was either that, or die."



A maniacal Abdullah the Butcher, with screwdriver in hand, has Terry Funk by the hair in the center of the ring (above).

By now, chaos was the sole rule in the ring. Hands consumed blood-drenched flesh. Feet slid across the crimson canvas. It was a ghoulish sight. Abdullah armed with his screwdriver, Funk with his Texas Tornado.

Abdullah flipped Funk out of the ring and chased after him, brandishing a chair. Funk, squinting through the blood, pummeled the beastly Butcher. He wouldn't be stopped. Funk couldn't be stopped.

Finally, with both men berserkly battling in the aisle, a double disqualification was announced.

"That had to be the only way. One of us wouldn't win. It would be a question of someone dying. No, I don't think I'd ever use the Tornado again. But if my life were on the line, hey, what would you do?" □

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YOU ASKED US

(Continued from Page 10)

Q: Does Mr. Wrestling know what Mr. Wrestling II looks like without his mask?—Richard Nieves, Brentwood, N.Y.

A: He does not. Not even II's closest friend and ally has ever seen the masked man without his cowl. II's real identity is among the best kept secrets of the 20th century.

Q: According to Ken Patera, Mil Mascaras is no longer wrestling because Kenny crippled



him in a match about six months ago. Patera also says Mascaras can no longer walk and is confined to a wheelchair in a nursing home in Atlantic City. Is this true?—Bob Hardee, Pismo Beach, Calif.

A: That may be the most ridiculous statement we've heard in years. We just spoke to Mil, who is on a tour of South America. Mascaras has gone undefeated, looks better than ever, and is all primed for a triumphant return to North America. When we told Mil about Patera's claim, the masked Mexican superstar laughed for about three minutes.

Q: Is Captain Lou Albano really a captain?—Fred Cochrane, Altoona, Pa.

A: Let's put it this way, Fred. Albano is no more a real



Lou Albano (above) is not an official "Captain." Mil Mascaras grapples Ken Patera (left). Patera says he crippled Mil and that Mil is through for life.

captain than Haystacks Calhoun needs *Weight-On!*

Q: Does Jim Brunzell expect to be as good a wrestler when he finally recovers from his leg injury?—Betty Kable, St. Paul, Minn.

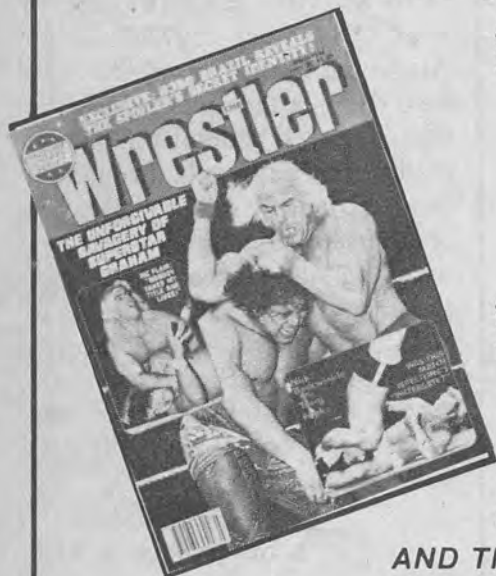
A: Jimmy should be completely healed and back in action by the time you read this, Betty. According to his doctors, the only problem Brunzell will have will be whether or not he can mentally prepare for the mat wars. Physically, he will be as sound as ever.

Q: Is Gino Hernandez sorry that he's become so hated?—Gloria Smith, Houston, Texas

A: "What a stupid question," replied Hernandez. "Sorry! Why the hell should I be sorry. You should see my bank account!" □

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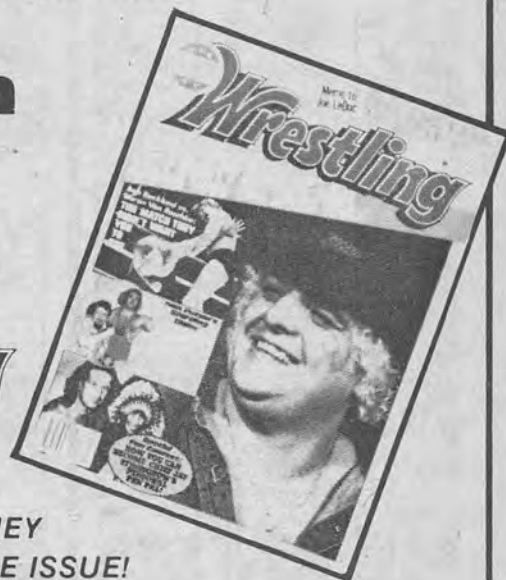


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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from Page 18)

ANDRE NUMBER ONE

What is on your minds over there at THE WRESTLER? In your December 1978 ratings, Andre the Giant is nowhere to be seen. He is a tremendous wrestler that deserves better from you. I realize that he travels throughout the country and cannot concentrate on one area or wrestling alliance, but let us be reasonable. He certainly deserves to be rated ahead of such melon heads as Larry Hennig, Stan Stasiak and Angelo Mosca. Let's get rolling over there or Andre will come after you.

MATT NEALY
Silver Springs, Md.

RACE IS UNBEATABLE

Doesn't Dory Funk Jr. get the message that is as clear as the laces on his wrestling boots? He cannot whip Harley Race. The NWA crown will never be recaptured by Funk or any other member of his obnoxious family. In your December 1978 issue ("Dory Funk Jr.'s Relentless Hunt Of Harley Race"), you make it sound like Funk will eventually realize his goal. Forget it, Dory. Better wrestlers wait years for title shots. You had your chances and failed. Move over and let someone else try.

HERBIE ROSENBLUTH
St. Louis, Mo.

BACKLUND-BRAVO A NO-NO

Your article in the December 1978 issue ("Dino Bravo: I Want Backlund... Now") hit the nail on the head. If Bobby Backlund fought his good friend Dino Bravo, chaos would result. So many excellent friendships have ended because wrestlers have wanted each other's titles and money. Bravo is talented, young and anxious. This is understandable. He should wait before he makes



Dino Bravo (above) should be cautious before wrestling his good friend Bob Backlund, says reader Timmy Grubman.

the mistake of his life by challenging Backlund. I'm sure Backlund would wrestle cleanly, but he too should avoid the match at all costs.

TIMMY GRUBMAN
Cambridge, Mass.

NO MORE BOUNTIES

Why do the wrestling federations allow wrestlers such as the dreaded Ric Flair to declare bounties on such men as Blackjack Mulligan? (December 1978 issue). Surely a fine wrestler will have his career destroyed by some money-hungry idiot who enters the ring with the sole intention of maiming, killing and hospitalizing. The federations and alliances must do something about this before wrestlers like Mulligan are beheaded. Flair should be suspended.

HANK LIPETT
Atlanta, Ga. □

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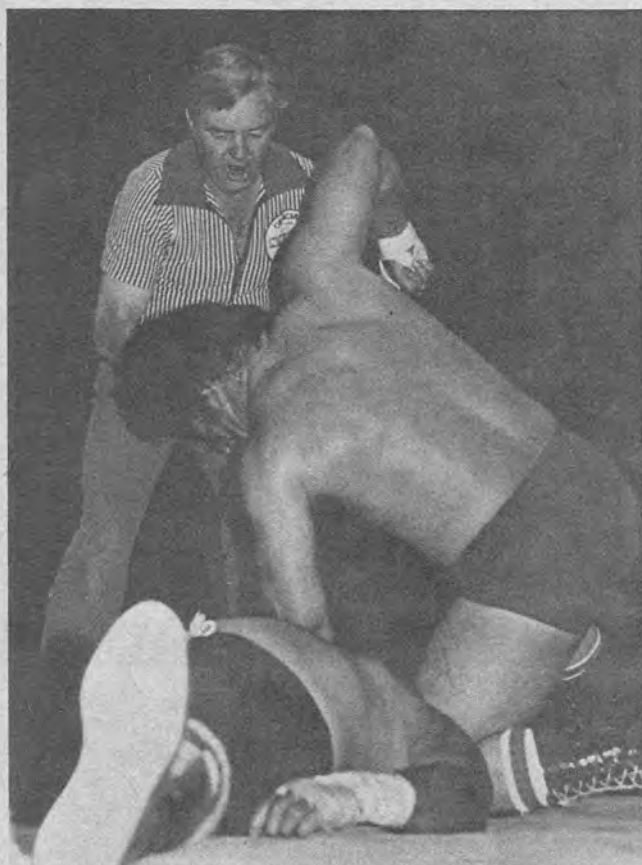
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BRASS KNUCKLES

(Continued from Page 32)



Jones clobbers Negro, who has slumped to the mat (above). Cyclone claims that he was in total control of the match until Jones hit him with brass knuckles. Negro said that Jones will pay for what he did. He said that this was not the first time Jones has used brass knuckles in a match.

pulled crap like this. There was another time he used brass knuckles on me. I told the ref but that didn't do nothin', so I figured I gotta settle this my own way in my own good time.

Ya wanna play rough, Jones? Ya think ya can hide behind your tootsie-fruitsie image and get away with this?

You're wrong, Jones. I got the scars to prove what ya did to me. I got all my anger saved up for you and I'm gonna pummel your porpoise puss when I get the chance.

Here's what happened, gang. I was whuppin' that Hungarian hoola dancer when all of a sudden there's somethin' shiny comin' at me. I blink, kinda shocked, know what I mean, I couldn't believe it. I had seen it before, but I thought for sure the ref would stop it. No, can't bother little Paulie.

I'm gonna bother him. I wanna see this article in your magazine and I want my challenge heard all over the country.

You'll pay for this, Paul Jones. □

THAT'S RIDICULOUS

(Continued from Page 33)



Cyclone Negro has Paul Jones in trouble against the ropes (above). Jones said that Negro's charges are ridiculous and don't even deserve an answer. He feels that his fans know and trust him and that they will believe him when he denies ever having used brass knuckles in any match in his career.

Not that I would, dig? There is no way I would. But at least it would make more sense.

But in a match against some cheap clod like Cyclone Negro? That is ridiculous. I don't have to use brass knuckles or pencils or steak knives in my matches. I wrestle by the book. If I win, then I have that warm glow of triumph. If I lose, I have the reassuring feeling that I did it my way.

Negro is the lowest type of man. Not only is he a shameless rulebreaker, but he's a foul-mouthed liar. Yeah, it's strong language for me. But Negro drives me to this.

Can't beasts like that be content with just rulebreaking, just their lousy physical vulgarity? No, they have to mouth off and make insulting comments like Negro.

My fans believe in me and trust me. They know I would never betray them. □

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the food you eat — gently step up your metabolism ... stimulate

VITAL NOTICE: Before starting this program, consult with
your physician to be sure you are in normal health and your
only problem is excess weight. Individuals with high blood
pressure, heart disease, diabetes, or thyroid disease should
use only as directed by a family physician and see if he
doesn't agree that this Lifetime Road to Slimmness including
the few minutes of nightly toneup the doctor highly recom-
mends is by far one of the most medically sound, fully sen-
sible approaches to the problem of excess weight.



Called the
**Anti-
Calorie
Capsule
Program**

because that's precisely
what it does ... attacks
the greatest single cause
of fat build-up ... over-
eating due to runaway
appetite ... helps you
create a calorie-deficit
in your body ... that
steps up the rate of fat
burn-off ... and shrink
your body's fat cells,
starting the very
first day!

and "target" your body's "fat-burner" chemicals to
attack clinging pockets of fat, so you burn away excess
flab meal to meal these 3 medically proven ways:

**ONE — BECAUSE YOU CONSTANTLY NEUTRALIZE THE
EFFECT OF THE CALORIES IN THE FOOD YOU EAT.**
**YOU BURN AWAY STORED-UP FAT AND CONTINUE TO
GROW SLIMMER AND SLIMMER FROM MEAL TO
MEAL!** Yes, when you launch yourself on this doctor's
calorie-deficit crash-burn program you gently step up
your inner furnace! So when food enters your body,

instead of being stored as fat, it is **AUTOMATICALLY** converted
to burned-away energy.

**TWO — YOU GRADUALLY ACCELERATE YOUR FAT-BURNING ME-
TABOLISM,** by greater caloric burn-off than intake. Meaning:
your body, without you even feeling it, unleashes a steady surge
of fat-burner chemicals directly into your system to attack stored-
up fat ... automatically breaks down ... converts it into fluid
... that drains right out of your body!

Just like a furnace grows hotter and hotter the more you stoke
it ... so your own body burns away fat faster and faster the
more you step up your fat-burning metabolism.

**THREE — YOU COMPLETELY DEFEAT THE GREATEST SINGLE
CAUSE OF FAT BUILD-UP,** runaway appetite and overeating.
Because the moment you take this doctor's **CAPSULE**, ravenous
hunger disappears. Gnawing appetite is switched off ... you
lose your craving for food for hours at a time.

More significant ... when you do eat on this Doctor's
CRASH-LOSS diet and Lifetime-Slim maintenance program, since
your body completely **NEUTRALIZES THE FAT-BUILDING EFFECT**
OF ALL THE **CALORIES IN THE FOOD YOU EAT**, excess fat
simply cannot form ... stored-up body fat burned off and
melted away by the hour — and you continue to grow slimmer
instead of fatter after each meal you eat!

**DOCTOR ADVISES: USE THIS CRASH-BURN PROGRAM ONLY
WHILE YOU'RE OVERWEIGHT ... OTHERWISE YOU MIGHT
GROW TOO THIN!** Of course, there is one thing you must keep
in mind. You cannot use this **CAPSULE CRASH-BURN PROGRAM**
indefinitely ... otherwise, you might become overly thin.

Also, as long as you are on this **ANTI-CALORIE** Program you
cannot stuff and gorge yourself silly on over-rich, high-fat
foods. There is a reasonable limit on just how fast medical
science can help you safely burn away fat. **BUT —** and here's
the very heart of this wondrous development: Because this
thrilling **ANTI-CALORIE** concept not only helps you neutralize
the effect of the calories in all the food you eat ... but
ALSO puts gnawing appetite to sleep ... you simply lose
that driving urge, that maddening craze to make fattening food
the very center of your existence ... thanks to this medically
proven formula that contains the most powerful reducing aid
ever approved for release to the public, without a prescription,
by the United States Government!

Now just think what this great **ANTI-FAT** weapon means to
you, if all your life you've had to fight off excess pounds, battle
away inches?

**WHY "KILL" YOURSELF WITH BRUTAL DIET OR TORTUROUS
EXERCISE? NOW — YOU CAN ENJOY A LIFETIME OF SLIM-
NESS WITHOUT RAVENOUS HUNGER!** It means that from this
day on ... you simply start the **ALL-OUT ASSAULT ON FAT**
by taking these medically proven **CAPSULES** ... called "Thera-
Thin", before eating ... as part of this incredible "**CRASH-
BURN**" PROGRAM ... to help you **NEUTRALIZE ALL THE
CALORIES IN THE FOOD YOU EAT!** You gently raise the level
of your fat-burning metabolism ... "rev up" that inner fur-
nace ... unlock and activate the natural chemical fat-burners
nature has placed in your body ... and **BURN AWAY FAT,
MELT AWAY INCHES** as you start to grow slimmer and slimmer
from meal to meal!

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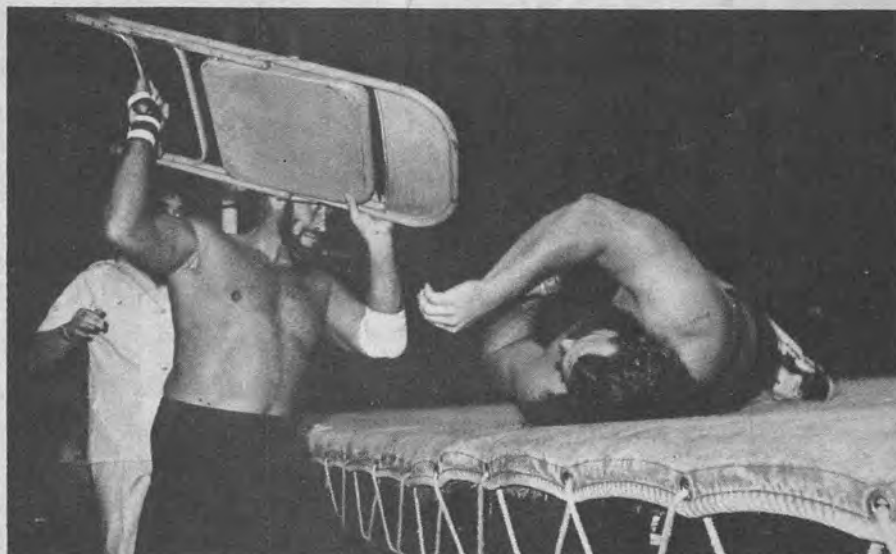
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KILLER KRUPP

(Continued from Page 45)



Krupp, seizing the initiative, grabs a chair and hurls it at Brodie (above), who is in agony on the ring apron. Both wrestlers have open contracts and thus they had no choice but to wrestle one another when promoters matched them. Brodie had the upper hand for most of the match, squashing Krupp with full force (below).



were made that one of the two men would not survive the evening. They were almost right.

The match began with a bang, continued with a crush and ended with a whimper. Krupp started using foul, rulebreaking tactics at the first possible chance. Brodie immediately did likewise. The pair went at each other like

dogs fighting over a dead rabbit. Biting, clawing, gouging and raking, Krupp and Brodie issued much pain to one another.

However Brodie, using his size advantage well, soon gained steady rhythm and had Krupp in trouble. The fans sensed the inevitable. Killer Karl Krupp was finally going to get his.

With Krupp near submission and Brodie sensing a hard-earned win, Krupp and Hart pulled the unexpected. Then again, the only move that is ever expected from Krupp and Hart is the unexpected.

Krupp ran from the ring like a baby running to momma. Hart apparently gave the order.

"His face was all bloody and



Bruiser Brodie seems anxious to dish out more punishment to a beaten Krupp (above). At this point, Krupp ran from the ring to the dressing rooms.

he was clearly in control anyway, so I couldn't see why the match should go on," said a nervous Gary Hart after the match. "That Brodie was atrocious. He couldn't beat an amateur. Krupp was bored with the match anyway. The blood on his face was probably from Brodie. My man is still invincible."

However, the eyes of Gary Hart told the truth. His words were unconvincing. His wrestler had gotten whipped this night. There was no way of lying to escape the fact. Krupp did not even appear for any post-match interviews.

The rise and fall of Killer Karl Krupp. Let's hope his road back is rocky and hard. ☐

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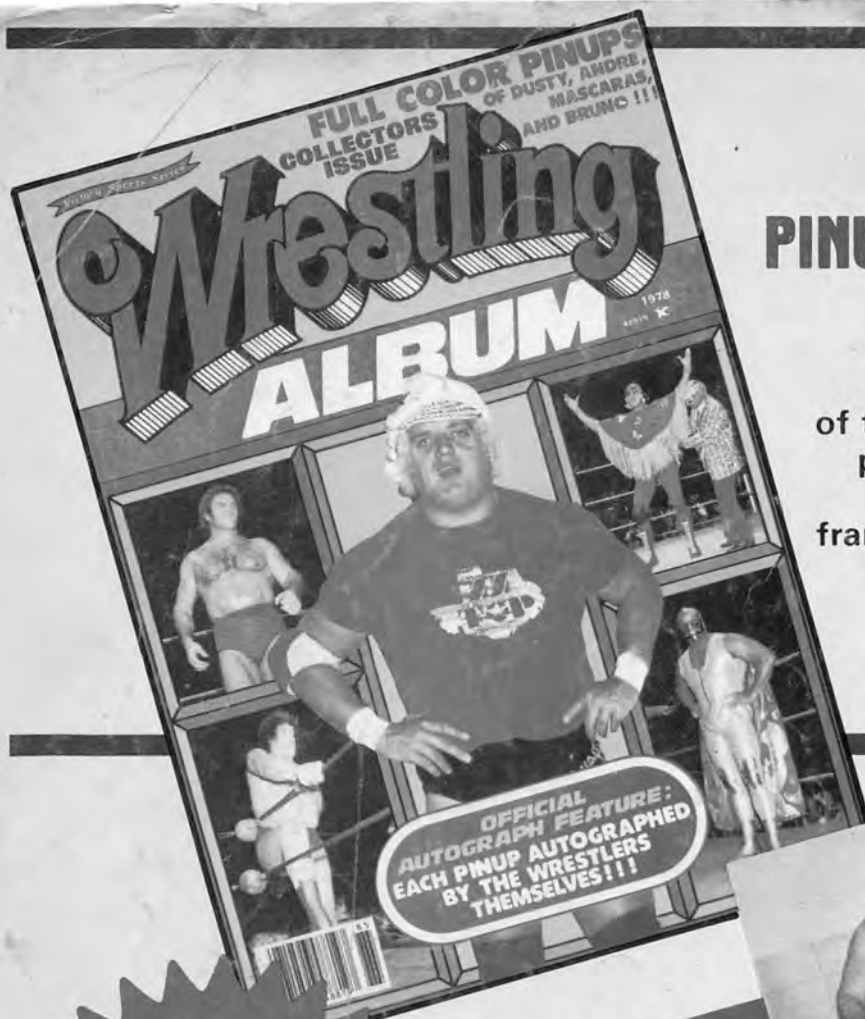
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